

Window on Jordan

By Koffi Attah
Special to The Star

THERE IS ample opportunity to discover Jordan's history through its rich archaeological sites, but to get to know the country properly, the clue lies in the people themselves. By observing their way of life and national spirit in local meeting places, you share in the community feeling.

Think of the compelling reasons to choose alternatives to traditional tourist sites. Observe the bustling

reality of modern Jordan at Suk Al Khodhra. Amman's central vegetable market in King Talal Street, where the nitty-gritty of day to day life can be seen. It's not all huying and selling, the market also lets you discover the hospitality of the people.

Picture the scene. Nothing beats the scent of fresh fruits being unloaded in the early hours of the morning, and your appetite wakes up at the sight of juicy bananas from Al Aghwar and Somalia. More temptations follow. The air around you is infused with the

aroma of bread, fresh from the local bakeries. Sample the Middle Eastern equivalent of ginger bread, muffins or croissants, in the shape of delicious Arab sweet breads and confectionery. "Yala, yala buraat" welcomes you to the potato stand, as "yala, yala" welcomes you to everything, such as the exotic fresh water fish from Aqaba. The chilly atmosphere in this corner of the market is due to the

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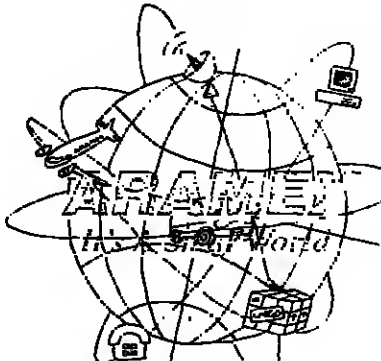


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Liberté d'aimer
en bonne et due forme
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اسبوعية سياسية مستقلة

Albright's visit brings 'reality check' to Arabs and Israelis

Secretary of State says she achieved 'small steps' towards reviving talks

Combined agency reports US SECRETARY of State Madeleine Albright, winding up a week-long trip to the Middle East, said Monday she believes that Israelis and Palestinians have begun to repair their tattered relationship, with each side making small gestures which could restart the stalemated peace process.

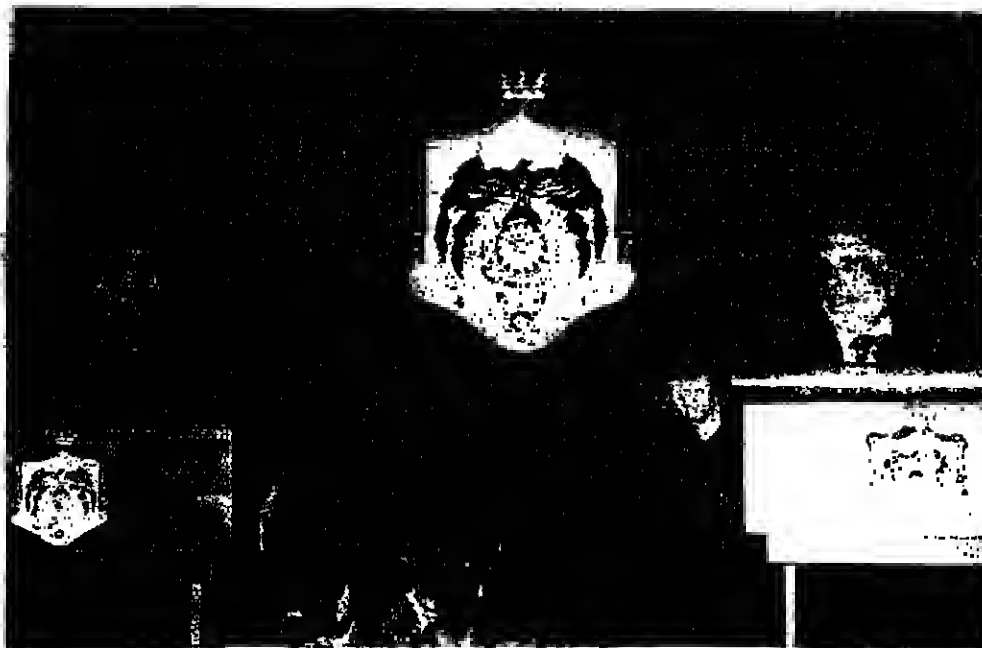
"We are moving in the right direction," Albright told reporters aboard her aircraft on the way home from an exhausting round of talks in which she played her own version of good cop-bad cop, alternately stroking and attacking Arabs and Israelis.

She said she was encouraged by resumed Palestinian-Israeli cooperation on security matters, and by the Israeli government's decision to release some impounded Palestinian tax revenues. "I think those steps are useful," she said.

Albright said she was coming to the Middle East to administer a 'reality check' to Arabs and Israelis alike, but she also got one herself.

The anger and recriminations she heard on her first swing through the region as secretary of state indicate that the situation "is probably even worse than I thought," she told reporters aboard her plane.

Albright, who concluded her week-long Middle East tour Monday, said she achieved "small steps," such as agree-



ment by Israel and the Palestinians to send cabinet-level officials to Washington next week. But she added: "I am not going to overestimate what's going on here. We've got a long way to go." If the region's leaders are not prepared to make the "hard choices" required to achieve peace, she said, she has other things to do and will not allow the Middle East to dominate her attention.

"If I can make a difference, I will be there," she said. "If there is not enough happening

for me to make a difference, I'm going to concentrate on Cambodia or our [upcoming] summit with the Chinese or on Bosnia certainly." NATO expansion and meeting with the Russians in New York. The United States' responsibilities are so large, I can't be occupied with this full time. This message that a US secretary of state is prepared to let the Middle East stew in its own juice for a while capped a tour that was aimed at shaking up the psychology of the Middle East.

She told the Israelis to stop provoking the Palestinians unnecessarily, and she told Syria and Israel, in effect, to get out of Lebanon.

She said she used "unvarnished language" because negotiations cannot succeed "if the parties do not know specifically what is expected of them or if too rosy a picture is painted or there is denial of certain facts."

The leaders of several Arab countries, including Egypt and Saudi Arabia, expressed satisfaction with her blunt approach, but aides to Albright said it might be several weeks before

they can assess her visit's impact. Albright ended her tour in dramatic fashion with an unannounced visit to Lebanon, where she promised the country will not be excluded from any regional peace settlement.

The United States is committed to the "territorial integrity, independence and sovereignty of Lebanon," she said, delivering a reassuring message to a small country where 30,000 Syrian troops impose order and the Israeli army occupies a swath of the south.

Two years ago, when it appeared there was a chance for a peace agreement between Israel and Syria, the Clinton administration signaled it might acquiesce in Syria's role in Lebanon in exchange for a Syrian-Israeli deal.

The schedule distributed to reporters traveling with her as she departed Jordan, Monday morning, showed her flying directly to Washington. Instead, she landed in Cyprus and flew to Beirut in a US Army CH-40

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Observers fear Albright's visit will not delay total collapse

By Raed Al Abed
Star Staff Writer

LEAVING A troubled Middle East, US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright admitted that her trip, the first to the region since she assumed office, was of a poor harvest.

But while she succeeded in calming tensions between the Palestinians and Israelis, it was difficult to predict what the US next move in the Middle East would be.

During a joint press conference with Albright Sunday, His Majesty King Hussein urged the US to continue exerting efforts to bring peace

News analysis

talks between the Palestinians and Israelis back to track.

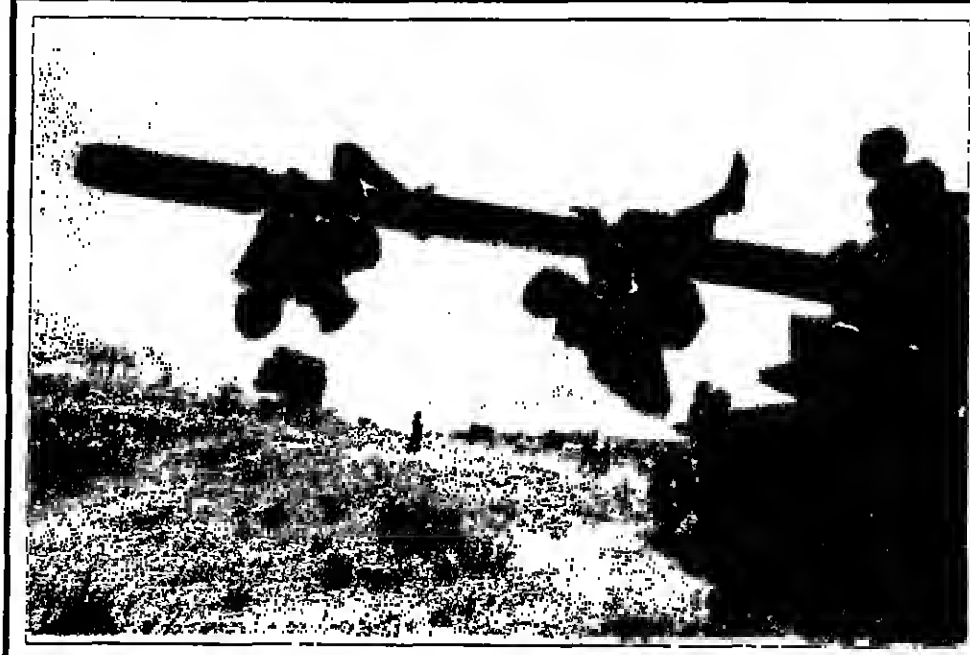
The King also urged Israel to fulfill the agreements it has signed with the Palestinians in order to move forward to final status of negotiations.

Mrs Albright told reporters that she informed the Israeli government that they have to abide by commitments they made in order to move forward.

"The heard my message which has been characterized as undiplomatic... I hope they understood that it was a message delivered by a friend who believes that in order that the peace process move forward, there be fulfillment of obligations and that the whole peace process is based on mutual obligations," she said.

Jordanian observers believe Albright failed to apply pressure on the Israelis and add that her stress on Israel's security

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Dinka children in the town of Kaya in war-torn southern Sudan play on a tank destroyed in the recent confrontations between government forces and the Sudanese People's Liberation Army. The continuing strife has affected the traditional way of life of the Dinka people who lost all their cattle, a measure of their wealth, to the war. See full feature on page 8. (The Washington Post Photo by Carol Guzy.)



Czech president comes to Jordan this week

AMMAN (Star)—Building bridges is part and parcel of constructing sound foreign relations. Leaders meet to create and strengthen diplomatic channels and bring about more cooperation between countries.

The three-day visit of Czech President Vaclav Havel to Jordan must be seen within this context. Although, this is his first visit to Jordan, Mr Havel is no stranger to the region, having previously visited Egypt and Israel.

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Arab Bank launches investment fund offering security and potential high returns

AMMAN (Star)—The Arab Bank has launched a new Capital Guaranteed Fund across the Middle East, which will give investors the opportunity of investing in a fund that guarantees the security of their capital while providing potentially higher returns than traditional deposit and savings accounts. In a press conference held at the Bank's headquarters in Amman this week, officials said the new Capital Guaranteed Fund was launched in Jordan, Palestine and Lebanon on 13 September and will close on 13 October. A second tranche of the fund will also be launched in Egypt, UAE, Qatar Bahrain and Cyprus on 27 September and will close on 27 October.

Regional Executive Manager Mr Tawfik Al Khalil told the press conference that the launching of this fund represents a new initiative on the part of the Arab Bank which reflects its efforts to meet growing client investment requirements. He said this move is part of a strategy by Arab Bank to beef up its special services to its client base worldwide. He added that the Arab Bank will be offering a variety of investment portfolios.

Mr Al Khalil said the new Capital Guaranteed Fund will give investors the opportunity to invest in a way that guarantees invested capital while offering a higher return than traditional accounts. He said the Arab Bank's Asean Fund, which is managed out of Singapore, achieved an impressive four-star rating in a latest survey.

A press release by the Arab Bank said that in the three years to 1 August 1997, the Asean Fund, whose size now stands at \$23 million, was the top performing equity fund in its category, providing a cumulative return of 18.95% during a difficult period for these markets while the sector average comprising 20 other funds registered a negative return of 3.01% over the same period.

Commenting on the launch of the new product, Khalid Shoman, Deputy Chairman and President of Arab Bank, said "The Capital Guaranteed Fund supports Arab Bank's core philosophy of prudent money management, whilst also providing

our customers with a wider choice of investment options." He added that "Arab Bank recognizes that it operates in a highly competitive marketplace and as a result, we must be more focused on meeting the needs and aspirations of an increasingly sophisticated customer." He said the latest Capital Guaranteed Fund reflects a series of new products which will be launched in the Middle East and marks a new phase in the Bank's development as we build our personal and private banking capabilities and strengthen our reputation for investment management expertise.

Mr Samer Saifi, Group Head Private Banking, told the press conference that the minimum investment will be \$5000. Investors cannot withdraw their investments until the fund matures in two years.

Mr Saifi added the Capital Guaranteed Fund is supported by the Arab Bank's conservative philosophy which ensures the best protection of its assets and deposits. He added that when the fund matures investors will receive their initial capital in addition to an average of 15% return on investment. Any additional return over the 15% will be shared between the client and the Bank.

He added that full details of the fund are now available through the Arab Bank's extensive branch network. In addition, Arab Bank has placed a team of specially trained investment executives in major branch locations throughout the Middle East who will provide detailed information on the fund.

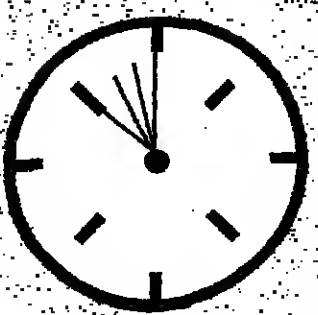
Mr Saifi said the fund will provide investors with the opportunity of benefiting from rises in the Nikkei Index. Japan's index of leading shares. Based on its considerable knowledge and experience of the Asian marketplace, Arab Bank believes that the Nikkei currently provides attractive valuations and exciting future growth potential, he added.

Mr Iyad Qutaineh, Head of Private Banking, said the fund's capital will be decided by the size of investments that will come by the end of the subscription period.

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Adjust your watches!

Jordan switches to winter time as of tonight, Thursday. Watches should be set one hour back at 12:00 pm, putting us one hour ahead of GMT.



Rameses makes his final journey home

By Samir Raafat
Star Cairo Correspondent

CAIRO—At precisely 12:00 hours on Thursday, February 24, 1995, just before noon prayers, large crowds watched in bewilderment as a colossal pharaoh, they did not know which one, painstakingly inched his way by special conveyance towards Midan Bab al-Hadid next to the Central Railway Station.

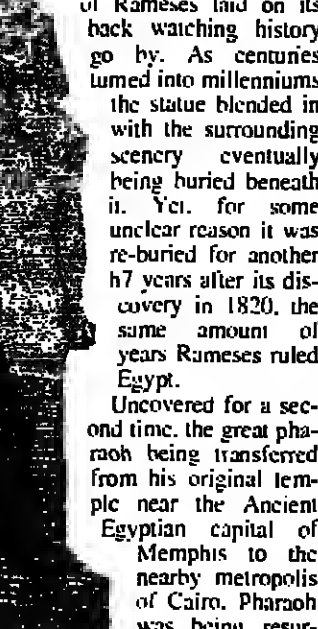
Onlookers who had read the morning papers learned this was no ordinary Ancient Egyptian ruler. Not of royal descent, he had taken over the reigns of power from the 18th Dynasty whose best known pharaohs

included Akhenaton and his teenage successor Tutankhamon. Once settled on Egypt's gilded throne he founded the illustrious 19th Dynasty made up of like-minded military men. High priests and general public alike went into absolute submission.

The implicit parallel between this pharaoh and Egypt's strongman Gamal Abdel Nasser could not be missed. Nasser too was of humble decent with a military background and had toppled a ruling dynasty. Small wonder one of the first decisions regarding the remodeling of Cairo was that of placing the larger than life statue of Rameses II in the

capital's busiest square. Perhaps one day, that other famous square, Midan al-Tahrir, would host the statue of Egypt's latest pharaoh, Nasser the First!

The Pharaoh being moved to the center of Africa's oldest capital was that of Rameses The Great who reigned from 1304 to 1237 BC making him the second longest reigning monarch in Egyptian history. He had conquered and subdued the rebellious princes of Palestine and Southern Syria, and had waged war on the impregnable Hittites of Anatolia. Ever since it was sculpted out of red granite, the statue



of Rameses laid on its back watching history go by. As centuries turned into millenniums the statue blended in with the surrounding scenery eventually being buried beneath it. Yet, for some unclear reason it was re-buried for another 17 years after its discovery in 1820, the same amount of years Rameses ruled Egypt.

Uncovered for a second time, the great pharaoh being transferred from his original temple near the Ancient Egyptian capital of Memphis to the nearby metropolis of Cairo. Pharaoh was being resur-

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World Report

Khirbet Al Nawafleh

Excavations complete
2000 years of historyBy Marwan Asmar and Raed Al Abed
Star Staff Writers

WADI MUSA—Have you ever experienced a sense of historical awe, a sense of overpowering dominance? In Wadi Musa, a town adjacent to the Red Sea City of Petra, you can ponder in subdued reverence on history's great civilizations. The area is a goldmine for its hidden treasures of the past.

It is here where the Nabataean culture was first nurtured and succeeded by the great historical periods of the past: the Roman, Islamic and the Ottoman were but a few of the civilizations that made their foot-

marks on this part of the world.

Khirbet Al Nawafleh, an area in the middle of Wadi Musa, is a testament to an ongoing historical development whose evolution continued through centuries of economic, social and political upheavals. The Khirbet, meaning a historical ruin, became a center of attention (it has already been known as an archeological site) early this year when one of the big investment companies decided to build a tourism complex to provide greater choice for those visitors who not only want to experience palatial surroundings but want to live, at least for a short while, in the shadows of the past.

The building of this tourism complex, however, would have destroyed relics of earlier cultures. In the interest of preservation, archaeological excavations had to be conducted in an extensive area within the 33 dunums of land on which the complex is being built.

And so an archaeological team under the directorships of Dr Khairieh Amr and Ahmed Al Momani started excavations at the Khirbet, last April. It was to prove a meticulous work that is currently going on, slowly unearthing places and artifacts that speak of past cultures, traditions and of bygone days.

Khirbet Al Nawafleh truly proved a historical goldmine. Standing by the ruin, Dr Amr says "what we have here is 2000 years of history." She adds that "life has continued till this day."

In a rather ironic sense what the property developers are doing is continuing the development of history to its logical conclusion, and just add the trappings of modern 20th century development on an area that was being built upon through the ages.

Dr Amr says that after extensive archeological excavations the team found that the area basically represents a series of overlapping villages that started from the first century BC and went on till the Ottoman empire.

In one dig, the 10 to 15-person team found, about six feet down, the existence of a water channel that dated from the 1st Century BC Nabataean period. Right on the very same spot there was evidence of both Roman development, then Early Islamic and later Ottoman existence.

But this was followed by more. From the other digs, the experts, who are all Jordanian, were able to find out that not only was this place inhabited since time immemorial, but that it was predominantly agricultural.



A view from the excavations

Furthermore, the techniques and implements they used were quite sophisticated. For one thing, the team found that there is extensive terracing used throughout the different historical periods. "There was Nabataean as well as ancient terracing," Amr suggested.

It was found, and disproving past theories, that the Nabataeans grew olives. In another of the digs, Amr pointed out to the existence of an olive press that was also from the 1st Century AD. This meant that there was a community, one of whose basic staple diet was olives and olive oil.

However, the team are still digging to find out more about the lives of past civilizations. Already they found coins, metal objects, iron, jars and lots of pottery dating back to different periods.

Today the Nawafleh ruins lie in a built area of modern housing. Amr says her team found also two cemeteries, one of which was exclusive to children. These date back to the Ayyubid/Mamluk Islamic period. "What is interesting," she points out is that the Nawafleh tribe to whom this land belongs "still follows the tradition of burying their children in a separate cemetery from the adults."

Funding for the project, which has about



One of the relics that were found

one more month to go has come from the Antiquities Dept., the Ministry of Tourism, the Petra Region Council and the Jordan Tourism Investments Co., the investment company.

The idea is to model Khirbet Al Nawafleh on Taybet Zaman, the touristic village that is up the road from Wadi Musa. In the Khirbet, there are a number of houses that date back from the 19th and early 20th century that will be renovated to give the aura of the past.



The water channel dating back from 1 Century BC

Observers fear Albright's visit will not
delay total collapse of peace process

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gave the Israeli leadership the wrong signal.

They agree that the US Secretary of State had evaded the real issues that now threaten the peace process such as illegal settlements, Jerusalem, the closure of Palestinian areas, collective punishment, demolition of houses and release of Palestinian prisoners.

Apart from managing to bring the Palestinians and the Israelis together soon "the Secretary herself admitted she has not achieved much, and had not addressed the major fundamental issues," said Mr Mahmoud El Sherif, a former minister of information. "These are the same issues that have poisoned relations between Palestinians and Israelis."

Many believe that the climate in the region is conducive to more terror. "Netanyahu succeeded in creating an atmosphere that invites violence. He is not willing to listen to anybody even to the Americans. And the Americans are not applying any sort of pressure, so anything can happen," said Mr El Sherif. "The Americans call up on Arafat to fight the source of terrorism, while the source of terrorism is Mr Netanyahu's policies; his policies are inciting violence. The Americans have to fight Netanyahu's policies."

Other Jordanian observers said Albright's visit marked a change in American policy towards the Middle East. It proved that this region is no longer a priority in American foreign policy.

"The priority attached to the Middle East issue has been reduced in the view of the American administration," said Ibrahim Ezziddin, a former minister of information. "Her visit comes in the general American policy of keeping the peace process going without really emphasizing the facts in the area, without really working hard to change the status quo in favor of a real peace."

However, Dr Labib Kamhawi, a political analyst, said that Albright's visit "constituted a visible and serious departure from traditional US stands on Arab Israeli issues," adding that "she tried to be a little bit even-handed in distributing her blame. But she was definitely biased in distributing praise. She praised the Israelis a lot, and praised Palestinians less than she did the Israelis."

Many had not expected a dramatic change in American tilt in favor of Israel. "I do not expect the American role to change and Albright was

not expected to impose pressure on Israel to implement its agreements with the Palestinians," said Mr Ghazi Al Sa'di, an expert in Palestinian-Israeli affairs. "The achievement of Albright's visit is that it calmed down the situation for a while, and postponed the complete death of the Oslo agreement."

Observers feel that Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's tough policies on the Palestinians are being helped by a lame US policy. They say in spite of Mrs Albright's visit, Netanyahu will continue to depart from the peace process.

"Mrs Albright did not come with a US interpretation of the term 'security' for Israel. It was as if Mrs Albright was condoning the Israeli interpretation of 'security,'" Dr Kamhawi said. "This signifies US approval of Israeli breaches of their commitments towards the Palestinians and others," he added.

Mr El Sherif warned that "there is no way to break the deadlock as long as the Americans see things through Israeli eyes." He added that Israelis, supported by the US, are "betraying their commitments, they are throwing them out of the window and they are breaching their commitments to Arab leaders just before the Doha Summit."

Many are pessimistic. "The future is very grim," Mr Ezziddin added. "When you reach a phase when the head of state of Israel is criticizing the prime minister of Israel and is soliciting foreign powers to change his attitude you can come to a conclusion that things are extremely bad."

Observers believe violence will erupt again, and increase as long as Israel continues to violate its peace obligations. "I think that the Palestinians, under such stress, are totally disillusioned and this feeling is bound to reflect in violent and extremist forms," Dr Kamhawi pointed out. "If we witness more violence in occupied Palestine the only people to blame are the Israelis and the unabated American support for the policies of the Netanyahu government."

Mr Sa'di also expects a return to confrontation between the Palestinians and Israelis. "As a result of its policies, the Israeli government took into consideration

warnings of the Israeli security institutions that the delay in implementing the agreements will lead to violent confrontations.

Sa'di disclosed that according to Israeli reports that the Israeli army and the border guards are training on guerrilla warfare to confront a new style of *Intifada*, which is possible.

The Israeli army is bracing itself for possible skirmishes with the Palestinian National Authority fighters. Israeli English daily *The Jerusalem Post* said Tuesday. The paper quoted a military source as saying clashes will occur if there is further deterioration in the political situation. The paper added that operational plans are being readied, as is special training for regular and reserve units, including the border police, military scouts and so on.

The paper's sources warned of an outbreak of guerrilla warfare and an escalation in the use of weapons in the Occupied Territories if the current stalemate in the peace process continues and mistrust between Israelis and Palestinians increases.

According to *The Jerusalem Post*, military officials claim the Palestinians have also beefed up their security forces and are maintaining a state of alert, fearing that Israeli security forces may re-enter territories under Palestinian control.

Albright's visit brings 'reality check' to Arabs and Israelis

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Blackhawk helicopter, surrounded by security agents in bulletproof vests. Her convoy included two Chevrolet Suburans with machine guns mounted on top.

"This is not my normal mode of travel," observed Albright, her trip to Beirut came a month after she ended restrictions imposed during the 1975-90 Lebanese civil war—limiting the use of US passports for travel Lebanon, but said she still thinks it is dangerous for Americans to come here.

Just days after the departure of Albright three Jewish fami-

lies. Protected by scores of heavily armed police, settled into an Arab neighborhood of East Jerusalem Monday, stirring outrage among Palestinians who see their presence as a betrayal of the Oslo peace accords. The move sparked fears of a new crisis in Palestinian-Israeli relations.

Turning to the results of her diplomacy on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, Albright said: "We have at least agreed to talk further about talks. In the absence of a peace elevator, we are methodically taking the stairs." In her airborne news conference between Ramat

and a refueling stop in Shannon, Albright seemed extremely pleased by His Majesty King Hussein's characterization of her style. "There is something fresh in the air, there is something new in the air—one who speaks the truth, not diplomatically but accurately," the King said Sunday during a joint news conference with Albright. King Hussein and some other Arab leaders praised the secretary of state for an "even-handed" approach to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

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Mr Al Khalil said response to the fund, which is being supported by a new style of advertising in newspapers in key markets, in addition to a public relations and direct marketing program, being positive.

Mr Qutaineh said the financial services marketplace in the Middle East is rapidly changing as increasingly sophisticated consumers demand a wider range of services and products and international banks seek to establish themselves in the region. He added that the Arab Bank also runs two London based funds, worth more than \$30 million, in addition to three Asian funds. Mr Qutaineh said the average return from the London funds since 1989 was 8% annually.

He said the Arab Bank is taken the lead in the local market by selling and managing these funds through its own trained staff and fund managers.

According to a background paper released by the Arab Bank, the emphasis on the Japanese stock market by the managers of the new Capital Guaranteed Fund stems from the fact that it is the second largest stock market in the world. It had greatly underperformed the other G7 nations since reaching its all time high in 1989.

After prolonged decline and stagnation, the Japanese econ-



From left to right: Samer Saifi, Tawfik Al Khalil, Iyad Qutaineh and Omar Qa'at

omy is starting to recover and as a result the Arab Bank believes that over the next two years, the value of the Nikkei will rise accordingly, providing potential good returns for investors.

This view is driven by a thorough analysis of various factors: The increase in Japan's consumption tax and its negative impact on wages has dulled domestic consumption and consumer confidence. However, from 1998, real income is set to accelerate as wage growth translates into an increase in consumer spending.

As the Japanese economy strengthens, employment growth has been showing positive signs, which will result in

improved consumer confidence.

The weakening Yen of the last two years has boosted the earnings of large Japanese exporters and corporate profitability will continue to improve from current levels.

On the monetary level, the combined effects of two years of Yen weakness, loose monetary policy and a slow economic recovery provide an environment which traditionally boosted stock prices. Inflation is still not a threat and will not present any danger in 1998.

Over the last eight years, there has been a correlation between periods of strong stock performance and a weakening Yen exchange rate against the US dollar. The continued weakness of the currency bodes well for the Japanese stock market, which so far has lagged behind. However it is expected that the market will start to close the gap in the near future once domestic economic activity gains momentum.

A strong upward move in the Nikkei is expected as the economic recovery becomes apparent and many money managers increase their Japan weighting as a result of more expensive and potentially vulnerable valuations in other major stock markets.

A potential risk to the Japanese recovery story is the unstable state of the banking sector and its exposure to other South East Asian economies. However there are growing signs that restructuring and regulatory reforms will improve underlying market sentiment.

Rameses
makes his
final journey
home

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the first morning light were beckoning. The crown of Rameses, weighing three tons, was placed on a separate truck as did his injured right leg. By the time the conveyance reached Pyramids Avenue, the media men were amok trying to catch the historic footage. Rameses The Great, the son of his noble ancestors Cheops, Chephren and Mykerinos, Pharaohs were making history again.

After a brief stop, the procession resumed its journey. Since it was unlikely that the trailers could handle the Giza underpass, a special crossing was improvised across Upper Egypt's railway line. The rest was easy navigating.

First the drive by Giza's Zoo—once a former Khedivial residence. Then, across the newly renamed Evacuation Bridge under the watchful eyes of Egypt's former premier Ahmed Maher Pasha. A small stretch later and Rameses passed under the imposing statue of nationalist leader Saad Zaghloul Pasha, whose great feast and charismas had mobilized an entire nation.

Under Zaghloul were the legendary Kasr al-Nil Bridge lions by Henri Jacquemart. The kings of the jungle looked on in amusement. Was not this pharaoh a distant cousin of the Sphinx who thought he was a lion? Rameses then crossed onto the Nile's East bank where pharaohs had never been buried. Sacrilege!

The procession moved on towards Ismail Square (renamed al-Fahr) and went down Queen Nazli Avenue—henceforth known as Rameses Street. Bab al-Hadid was within sight. It was 11:53.

At Bab al-Hadid the statue was transferred to a temporary concrete and steel bed. It lay in state until the granite base with its water fountain was ready to receive it. The statue would stand upright for the first time in three millenniums. Meanwhile, Mokhtar's "Egypt's Awakening" was hurriedly moved from Bab al-Hadid to its new location in Giza in front of the Fouad al-Awal University (renamed Cairo University).

The unveiling ceremony of the revamped Rameses Square was scheduled for July 23rd coinciding with the third anniversary of the 1952 coup. It was only fitting that its principal beneficiary, whom modern-day scribes were already describing as "the greatest Egyptian ruler since Rameses the Great" do the honors. Little did they realize then that while Rameses had added large territories to his ever-expanding realm, Nasser would lose a large chunk of Egypt to the enemy during a humiliating six day war in June 1967.

On July 23 the statue of Rameses was not yet in place. A technical hitch claimed the craning contractor. The much publicized ceremony was canceled and al-Ras with the American ambassador in tow, celebrated the groundbreaking of the Nile Hilton Hotel instead!

Today, Rameses is scheduled to return to his original resting place as though the 45-year lapse since Nasser promised his audacious subjects draconian representative changes never took place. Through twists and turns, timeless Egypt corrects itself so that the sanctification of our pharaohs both ancient and modern continues.

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PEACE OF MIND

JORDAN

W E E K



An unconventional report on Jordanian news and views edited by Marwan Al Asmar

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan paid a two-day visit to Saudi Arabia, Tuesday. The Prince was received by King Fahd and by Crown Prince Abdullah who made the invitation. Regional developments as well as bilateral relations were on top of the agenda. King Fahd stressed his country's interest in strengthening the historical relations with Jordan.



Islamists come back to the fold

Four leading Islamists have reversed their decision to resign from the Islamic Action Front (IAF). These include IAF General Secretary Dr Ishaq Al Farhan, and three members of the Executive Council, Hamza Mansour, Dr Mohammad Oweida and Dr Ahmed Tunash. Although the resignations were presented two months ago, after Islamists decided to boycott the parliamentary elections, they were only discussed last week at a full meeting of the Shura Council which rejected the resignations. Later Dr Al Farhan said that he respected the decision of the majority. But Dr Bassam Al Omoush, who also resigned at the same time, said that he would stick to his decision. This leaves Dr Abdullah Al Akaileh, who is almost certain to follow suit.

Assistant pharmacists could lose out

The Jordan Pharmacists Association has warned that up to 6000 of its members could be out of a job if the new law relating to pharmacy practice goes into effect. The bone of contention is article 9 which states that in the absence of the responsible chemist from the pharmacy, then his assistant or any other may not give out prescribed medicines. Article 99 of the current law however, states that in the absence of an assistant chemist, who must be licensed, in the pharmacy, then no medicine may be given out.

Plan for government buildings

The Social Security Corp. (SSC) is to embark on an ambitious plan to finance and execute a series of government real estate projects. The plan, which was approved by the Council of Ministers, costs \$100 million. It is understood that the corporation has already drawn up a plan to construct buildings for ministries and government departments throughout the Kingdom. The SSC stressed that the plan does not violate the World Bank economic restructuring program. Government officials say it would would revitalize the construction sector.

Hashish and forgery

The State Security Court has sentenced a man to five-year imprisonment with hard labour for trading in hashish. It also sentenced a man from Cameroon to a three-year imprisonment with hard labour for allegedly possessing "paper" and "equipment" used for making counterfeit banknotes (dollars). He came to Jordan in February this year.

His Majesty King Hussein received Algerian President Lamine Zeroual at the Royal Court, Monday. The Algerian president, who was on a three-day official visit to the Kingdom, discussed bilateral relations and the latest developments in the peace process. King Hussein, the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces also received President Zeroual at the Army Headquarters where the two leaders discussed the scope of security cooperation as well as exchange of expertise in the military field. Later the King accompanied the President to the Royal Military College from which the Algerian President graduated in 1960.



Protection and restoration of architectural buildings discussed in a three-day conference

By Ibtisam Awadat

Special to The Star: MORE THAN 500 people participated in the First Jordanian Conference for the Conservation of Architectural Heritage, which was opened in Amman this week under the patronage of Her Majesty Queen Noor.

Organized by the Ministry of Municipal and Rural and Environmental Affairs, the conference aims at underlining the importance of the conservation of architectural heritage by spreading public awareness, defining technical guidelines for carrying out conservation works, preparing for a national register of architectural heritage and preserved buildings and upgrading legislation to protect such buildings.

According to Mervat Ma'moon, Architectural engineer and chief of the Architectural Dept. at the Ministry of Municipal and Rural and Environmental Affairs, the conference also hopes to "concentrate on the importance of guarding the buildings and sites which have an architectural and historic value, because these buildings are going to vanish if we don't give them more attention."

The conference was attended

by Jordanian and Arab experts in the areas of architectural preservation of heritage and government officials.

Ma'moon said invitations were sent to experts from Egypt, Syria, Tunisia, and Morocco "because of the similarity in our heritage and the wide spread of Islamic religion which influences on the style of building."

Historic buildings are defined as those which were built after 1700, but are not protected by the current antiquities laws. This has prompted many conservationist and architects to call for the establishment of a strategy leading to the protection of traditional and historic buildings, many of which are being neglected, or have been badly restored.

As a result of this conference and previous individual efforts some charities and popular societies have requested that they "adopt" some of the threatened historic buildings.

"But our first goal," said Ma'moon, "is to establish a national fund for the restoration of these buildings."

She added that it is important to note that the idea behind protecting these architectural gems is not for touristic purpose, but



to make people more aware of the need to safeguard what is part of their culture and history.

Also an exhibition with Jordanian, Egyptian and Syrian participation was formed, the exhibited works contained examples of experiments in restoring the heritage including designs in which the architectural heritage of the region was taken in consideration. A major

part of the exhibition focused on a study to develop the historic buildings in the city of Jerash.

During the three-day conference papers on architectural heritage, restoration, development of Arab cities, planning and legislation, urban design and other issues especially the experiments of Tunis, Damascus and Jordanian cities in restoration have been discussed.

Press Cocktail

Edited by Raed Al Abed

Albright in the Jordanian press

Albright: An eye on Israeli security and another on the Doha Summit. Orsaib Al Rentawi writes under this title in Ad Dustour Arabic daily. He believes that "since the first day in the region, Madeleine Albright was speaking on behalf of 'the Zionist lobby' in the United States." He added that her "warm statements" concerning Israeli security and her confirmation that the American administration still adheres to the 'superiority of Israel', is reflecting the traditional spirit of the US which is biased in favor of Israel.

"Albright has failed to achieve even the minimum in her mission," he says. "It was clear that the master of American diplomacy has travelled to the region with one open eye on Israeli security, while the other directed on salvaging the Doha Economic Summit."

Hamada Fara'neh, writes in Ad Dustour that Albright failed to impose on Netanyahu anything that complies with Oslo. She did not succeed in making the Likud-led government stick to the Oslo/Washington agreements, and she also failed to "pressure the Palestinians to give concessions against their interests and their right to freedom and independence," he says.

Albright failed to stop the harm that is being done to the Palestinians and their National Authority, but succeeded in airing her views on the dangers of settlements, and in turn the Palestinians succeeded in focusing on this substantial issue.

The writer says "Albright is not a scarecrow... [but her visit to the region] was an American effort" that was made "after the Arab rejection of the Doha economic summit that is a slap to the American policy and hegemony."

In Al Rai' Arabic daily, Tareq Masarweh writes that "it is impossible that the US State Secretary is visiting the region without carrying something new, however, if this is true, he adds, then it means that the region is not a priority for American politicians, and that the two most important issues, oil and Israel, are not threatened..."

"Concerning us in Jordan," he adds, "we stand on the frontier of oil [states] and Israel, therefore searching for a role out of this [geographical] position is an illusion."

On Jordan, Masarweh says "standing on the frontier of oil interests and Israeli interests... is not an easy balance... not because oil and Israel are two contradictory issues, but because securing our interests requires strength not anger and reaction," he believes it is a mistake to trust American policy.

He adds that the Americans are mistaken if they think that Jordan is taken for granted... Jordan has clear interests, first it is the water projects, second the stability of the Palestinian situation, third to avoid forcing Jordan into confrontations with Syria and Iraq.

Economist Dr Fahd Al Fanek believes that the most important achievement of Albright's trip "is the trip itself, no one can accuse her, any more, of ignoring the Middle East," he writes in Al Rai. He adds that "the desired goals of the trip" were not successful.

Al Fanek writes that Albright hopes to continue the peace process on the Palestinian track but nothing was achieved. She hoped to pave the road to negotiations on the Syrian track, but nothing was achieved as well.

She also wanted to create a consensus on the success of the Doha Summit, but she faced tepidity from Egypt and Saudi Arabia, and even Israel, which cannot imagine the kind of crisis it awaits it in Doha if the conference is convened.

He concluded by saying "Jordan, in particular has no special problem and Albright's visit to Amman was successful and useful for improving the Jordanian-American relations."

ARAB BANK HOLDS SEMINAR ON ASSET LIABILITY MANAGEMENT

The importance of understanding the professional asset liability approach in future banking activities



Amman (Star) As part of its continuous efforts to address developments in the banking industry, the Arab Bank has organized its final four-day seminar this year on Asset Liability Management at the Jordan Intercontinental Hotel.

The seminar which started on September 11th 1997, was presided over by Mr. Abdul Majeed Shoman/Chairman of the Arab Bank, together with his Deputy Bank, together with his Deputy

Shoman and Dr. Farouk El-Kharouf/Director General of the Arab Bank Accountancy Division.

The seminar was held exclusively for Arab Bank regional managers in cooperation with the London-based Batt & Partners Consulting Limited, a specialized top level consulting firm which serves financial institutions world-wide.

Thirty-two participants represented Arab Bank branches in Austria, Italy, Spain, Greece, Cyprus, Lebanon, Egypt, U.A.E., Qatar,

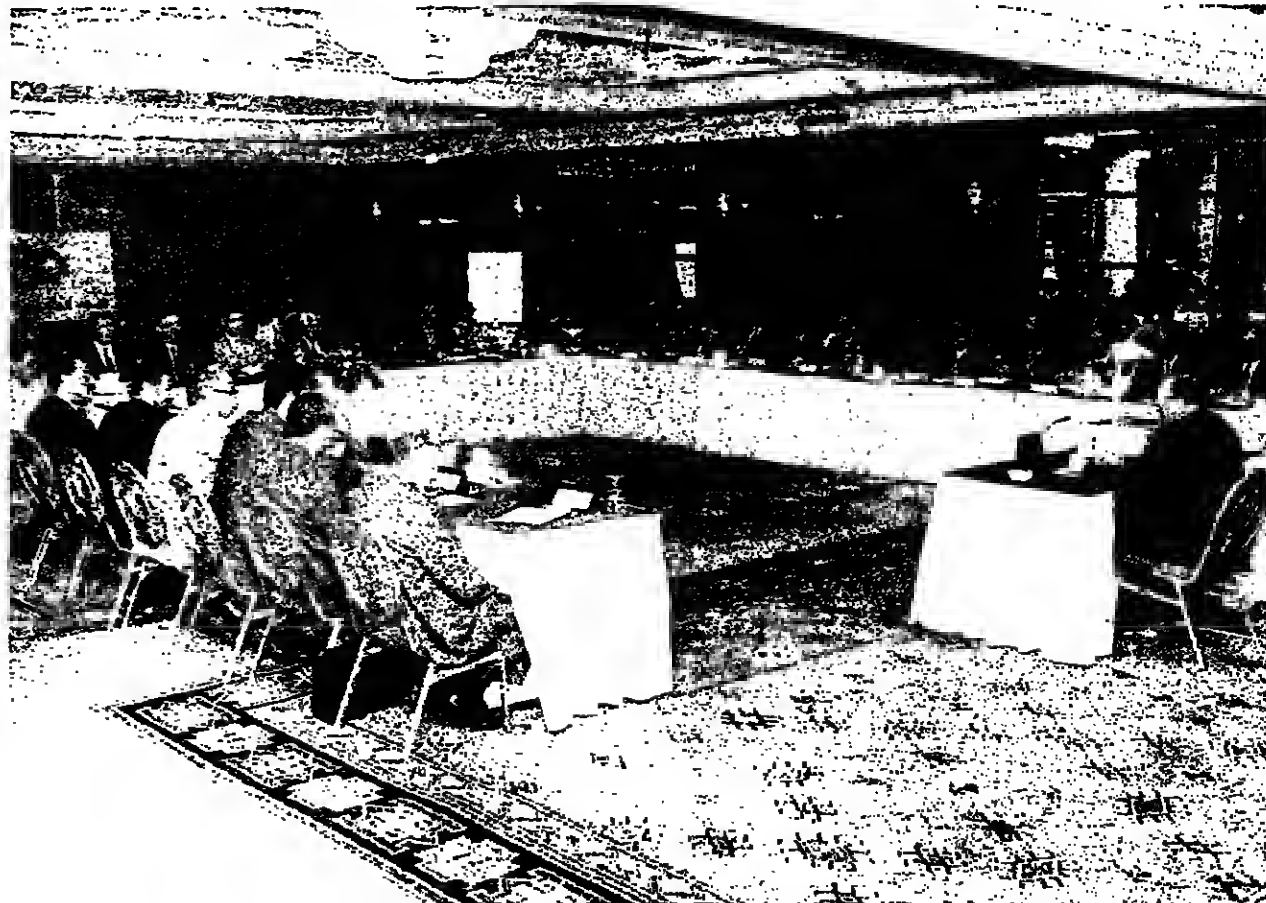
Yemen, Jordan and Palestine.

This event comes as an integral step in accomplishing a comprehensive risk management system in the Arab Bank Group.

The preparation started with the Bank's main financial centers in Singapore, New York, London, Manama and Switzerland. Other centers spanning 35 countries around the world have now joined this strategic program which the Arab Bank has adopted to face the recent challenges in the banking

industry.

Mr. Tewfik Ahmad Al-Khalil / Senior Executive Vice President ended the seminar by emphasizing the importance of understanding the professional asset liability management approach in future banking activities. He also elaborated on the Bank's commitment to provide its clients with a wider range of investment and treasury products. ■



Lurie's NewsCartoon



(Where from: U.N. investigators, taking into alleged atrocities in the Congo, are being severely restrained by demands and limitations imposed on them by President Kabila.)

"Go get them, Buster!"

Our Say...

Albright: Much more than words is needed

IN SPITE of the modest achievements of US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright's first visit to the region, her mission may have stopped, for a while, the keeling over of the Middle East peace process.

On her stop in Jordan she and His Majesty King Hussein appealed to the peace camp, to which the majority of the people in this part of the world belong, to do their best to prevent the enemies of peace from forcing their agenda.

Mrs Albright praised King Hussein and Jordan's efforts in securing peace and stability in the region. But good words are not enough. Jordan and all the forces of peace need assurances that the United States is still committed to standing by those who had taken the risk and now stand in the face of peace enemies.

In her own way, Mrs Albright tried to distribute blame and urged both parties, Palestinians and Israelis, to fulfill their commitments under the signed agreements.

The King on his part called on Israel to honor its commitments and implement what has been agreed upon under various accords. He is absolutely right in demanding this before talk about final status negotiations can be considered. The current stalemate in the peace process is caused by lack of implementation of issues that both the Palestinians and the Israelis had agreed to. Without further Israeli withdrawals from Occupied Territories, the peace process loses its objective and purpose.

Likewise negotiations on the remaining tracks require clarity of vision and determination to meet one's responsibilities. But while trying to be sensitive and diplomatic about Israeli obligations, Mrs Albright had tried to send a message to the Israelis; that security cannot be achieved without peace.

Mrs Albright also talked diplomatically about the need to address the legitimate political rights of the Palestinians. There, she also tried to tread lightly. We wonder why she would do that when voices in Israel are being raised about the inevitability of Palestinian statehood.

The United States has a central role to play in this region and in the creation of a just and lasting peace. While Mrs Albright's visit was able to restore some confidence in Washington's role and responsibility, words, hints and insinuations will not change headline policies or prevent unilateral actions.

Israeli policies under the current government have dealt severe blows to the peace camp. Terror and bloodshed cannot be dealt with in an atmosphere of distrust, collective punishment, despair and aggravation.

The peace process slide may have been stopped temporarily now, but for the peace camp to survive and offset the forces of evil it must receive a solid sign that the risk that has been taken so far will not go to waste. Only the United States can deliver such sign and only Washington can exert the necessary pressure to bring the parties back to the table so that they can fulfill their commitments and finish the task that lies ahead.

Letter from the Levant

Albright's mission and broken promises

By Osama El-Sherif

I PROMISED myself not to write about Madeleine Albright's first trip to the Middle East. I told myself that I will not fall into the trap of analyzing every statement, every word and every gesture that she and the people she met with in Israel, the Palestinian areas, Damascus, Cairo, Jeddah, Amman and Beirut made. I felt that it would be better to focus my attention on other issues; the fourth anniversary of the signing of the DOP in Washington between Chairman Arafat and Prime Minister Rabin, the UNRWA crisis, Israel's south Lebanon quagmire, the visit of the Algerian President to Syria and Jordan—anything but Mrs Albright's much talked about rescue mission to save the ailing Middle East peace process.

As a journalist, I knew that what the world sees and hears on such highly publicized, and extremely short, trips has little to do with what actually goes on behind closed doors. Only when the dust settles and the American Secretary of State is back in her Washington office, do we begin to get wind of what actually took place: what was said in closed meetings and where things are really heading.

So why pontificate now, when in few

days or weeks, we would know for sure what Albright's visit was all about?

Still, it was hard to focus on anything else. I could not just ignore the arrival to the Middle East of one of the most controversial US secretaries of state since Henry Kissinger. The fact that Mrs Albright, a woman, the first to hold such a job in US history, that she recently discovered her Jewish origins, that as US ambassador to the UN she led a vicious campaign to oust Dr Boutros Ghali as UN Secretary-General and that she was the driving force behind prolonging UN sanctions against Iraq, all of these intriguing facts made the debut of the Czech-born head of US diplomacy on the critical Middle East scene an extraordinary event, to say the least.

Mrs Albright took her time to make her visit to the area, although the Middle East process has been going on a down-hill slide for some time now. May be she felt she could do little to salvage the US-sponsored process and that her career could sustain irreparable damage if she got involved in the complicated Middle East issue right from the beginning.

But she finally made her tour; six days in which she visited six countries in addition to the self-rule areas. By her admission she could not describe her mission to

breath life back into the Middle East peace process as a success. At face value what she managed to achieve was limited; a possible meeting between Palestinians and Israelis in New York next week—a humble achievement from a highly publicized visit.

Mrs Albright flew to the region at a time when US credibility among the Arabs, the Palestinians in particular, was wearing thin. Her appointment, nine months ago, gave some credence to growing suspicions that the current US administration was the most pro-Zionist and pro-Israeli in recent American history.

For nine months, Mrs Albright kept away from the Middle East, preferring to dispatch special envoy Dennis Ross, a man the Palestinians trust no more, every time the need arises. And every time Mr Ross arrived and left, the peace process lost more of its spirit and momentum. And as the peace process deteriorated, Mrs Albright maintained its distance arguing that only the two main parties can overcome their differences.

In the view of many in our part of the world, Mrs Albright's arrival had little to do with saving the peace process and a lot with standing by Israel at a dark hour when suicide bombers were blowing away Netanyahu's invulnerable image and Lebanese resistance fighters were leaving a visible dent on the armor of Israel's unassailable army. She did not bother to intervene when Israel broke ground for a settlement on Jabal Abu Ghneim, or when Israel cordoned off the West Bank and Gaza, or when Israel bulldozed Arab houses, confiscated ID cards and expropriated Palestinian lands. These policies continue even after Albright's visit.

Why is it that we have a feeling that Mrs Albright was more concerned with assuring the Israelis of her personal support and loyalty, than with reassuring the Arabs that America will save the peace process and put it back on track?

We know now that Netanyahu, against the will of the majority of Israelis, is succeeding in his mission to reduce the historic Oslo Accords to a mere footnote in the Palestinian struggle for their legitimate rights. Our fears and suspicions were not subdued when Jewish fanatics took over Arab homes in Ras Al Amoud in East Jerusalem while we were still debating the achievements of Mrs Albright's visit to the region.

The peace process was supposed to be about trust, commitment and kept promises. None has endured.

And there goes my promise not to write about Albright's visit!



US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright shakes hands with Palestinian President Yasser Arafat outside the PNA Education Ministry in Ramallah during her six-day visit to the region which began last Wednesday.

Why Israeli settlements preclude peace

By Leah Green

EARLY THIS spring, I led a 14-member international delegation of citizen diplomats into the heart of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. We lived with Palestinian families in the small West Bank village of Bourin for 12 days, working with them on an environmental project. As director of the Middle East Citizen Diplomacy Project for the Earthstewards Network, it was my eighth such delegation in recent years.

The village of Bourin exemplifies the explosive situation that exists between Israel's recent settlers and the native Palestinians living in the West Bank. In Bourin, 1,500 people live sandwiched on their land between the 60 or so Israeli families living on two neighboring settlements—Yitzhar and Bracha. While the Palestinians and the Israelis live in close proximity to one another, their relations are anything but neighborly.

Both Israeli settlements were built on land taken from Palestinian families in the 1980s. Yitzhar was recently enlarged and Bracha is now preparing to confiscate more of Bourin's land. Thus, Bourin villagers have been hard at work, preparing to plant the targeted area in hopes of securing it (tallow land is easier to confiscate). Bracha's settlers have shot at the Palestinian crew from a distance in the past, and last month they attacked.

One of my friends was hospitalized with head injuries sustained from the butt of a settler's gun.

But it's the settlement of Yitzhar that presents the greatest ongoing challenge for Bourin. Yitzhar is home to an Israeli Knesset member from the Moked (Homeland) Party, Moked's platform promotes "transfer" as a solution to the West Bank land war. They believe that Israel should forcibly move West Bank Palestinians to other Arab countries. Transfer is a polite term for ethnic cleansing.

Although it's common to find settlers throughout the West Bank with that ideology, Yitzhar has a reputation as extremist stronghold. I had the

opportunity to meet and talk with settlers from Yitzhar during our March project. Our work site—the Bourin Secondary School—bordered their main road.

Our group of American, Israeli and British citizen diplomats arrived in Bourin and convened at the school on a warm spring day, but our good spirits were immediately dampened. We learned that two children from the village were beaten by settlers outside the school just before we arrived. The teachers stressed that settler violence was almost a daily occurrence. They pointed out bullet holes in the walls and cabinets in the room where we were meeting. The windows along the western side of the school are permanently shattered because the settlers drive along that side of the school. And an open window is an "invitation" for a bullet.

We saw threatening drawings and slogans on each of the classroom doors. On one door, "Kill the Arabs" appeared beside a drawing of a settler pointing his gun at a terrified Palestinian. Another door bore the drawing of a fist clutching a knife with a Jewish Star of David on it. Next to it was a drawing of Abraham's tomb in Hebron, where an extremist Jewish settler massacred 29 Palestinians last year while they prayed in their mosque. The meaning was clear: "Watch out, this could happen to you."

We saw photos of the school from April 1994, after the settlers tried to burn it down. Four of the rooms had been completely destroyed. The stories continued.

We began our work the following morning with apprehension. Some of us wanted to visit Yitzhar with the hope of easing some of the tension. But the settlers came to us first, their M-16s dangling awkwardly from shoulder straps. They seemed surprised to discover two Jews in our group.

One of the investigating settlers told our Israeli member, Jamie, that the people of Bourin must leave because God gave this land to the Jews. "It says so in the Torah," The Pal-

estinians in Bourin are like animals trespassing," on private Jewish property," he said. "They must return to the Arab countries that they came from."

(This line was particularly hard to accept because Bourin is a Roman village and some families can trace their roots back more than 500 years.) It's clear they are prepared to drive out the Palestinians by any means necessary if daily harassment doesn't do the job.

Towards the end of the conversation, Jamie asked the settler, "What kind of a human being are you to justify this behavior toward a fellow human being?"

Without dropping a beat, the settler replied, "I'm not a human being, I'm a Jew."

We spoke with many Israeli soldiers who patrolled the road to Yitzhar continuously. We showed them photos of the burned school and asked why no Israeli authorities ever came to investigate the incidents, which had all been reported to the Israeli police. We received various answers, depending on the personal beliefs of the soldiers we were talking to. Everything from "If it were up to me the settlers would be gone tomorrow" to "Well, you have to understand that this is a large administrative area, and it takes time to investigate all of these charges." The only complaint we heard from the Israelis about the villagers—apart from their stubborn residency—is that the kids threw stones at the settlers' school buses.

While the conflict simmered around us, we managed to complete our project. We planted shade trees on the perimeter of 17 acres of land and fenced it to protect the seedlings. A talented artist completed a beautiful mural at the entrance to the school with the words "Peace Be With You" to greet passing settlers and villagers alike.

We went to sleep on the night we finished with the satisfaction of a job well done, only to awaken in the morning and discover that the settlers had destroyed much of the new fence and covered the mural with death threats and Jew-

ish stars. We knew that was a possibility. But we were surprised the settlers hadn't waited until we left. Their timing suggested that their message was intended for our group, as well as for the people of Bourin.

No one we met in the village of Bourin had faith in the current peace process. Not only do those Palestinians still live under harsh military occupation, but the one promise that (the former) Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin made that could have served as a confidence building measure—the freeze on settlements—did not come to pass.

Since the Rabin-Arafat handshake in September 1993, more than 44,000 acres of Palestinian land has been confiscated, and settlement construction continues daily. Yitzhar has doubled in size. Israeli Deputy Defense Minister Mordechai Gur claims that during the five-year negotiating process set out in the Oslo accords, settlement expansion will be "an achievement that Israel will present to Palestinian negotiators as a geographic fact."

And what about the Clinton administration? Israeli settlements have progressed from being "illegal" under Carter, to "obstacles to peace under" the Reagan and Bush era, to "complicating factors under Clinton. What's next: 'unfortunate necessities'?"

The expansion of the settlements, the daily harassment by the settlers and the lack of protection and justice that the Palestinians experience will continue to drive moderate Palestinians into the arms of the Islamic extremists. Is any wonder why?

Leah Green, an American Jew, directs the Middle East Citizen Diplomacy Project for the Earthstewards Network, based on Bainbridge Island. She attended the Hebrew University in Jerusalem and works several months each year in the West Bank. The above article is reprinted from the Seattle Post-Intelligencer.

Middle East Beat
by Khadija Hanko
Azeri Oil

OIL IS back again on the creative controversies, but this time, it is definitely not from the Arab world. The Azerbaijan oil reserves made the international and regional centers of power scramble to gain from the prospect of a lucrative business generated from the proceeds of this related industry.

The conflict between Azerbaijan and Armenia over Nakhichevan, and Nagorno-Karabakh forced the international community earlier on, to impose sanctions on the region in the hope that the conflict would abate. But now, pressure groups in Europe and USA are moving to lobby their governments to invest in Azeri oil.

There is a notion of morality that the international community sticks to, and acknowledge universally. However, all stop at the threshold of oil which seems to have its own morality and temptations. The fraternity of oil companies have launched their plans in earnest, and the neighbors of Azerbaijan have started devising routes for the construction of pipelines to transport oil via their own corridors.

In a scenario reminiscent from the age of the "great game," the game seems to have much higher stakes in monetary value than envisaged by the great players of the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Till now, the cards are all held by the Asian strongman, president Heydar Aliyev, and he is playing those cards very close to his chest.

Of course, his most important priority is to deal with the issue of occupied Azeri territories by Armenia, therefore, he is "likely" to use oil as a weapon to re-acquire those lands. One can expect him to lobby the international community to reach an amicable agreement with Armenia, that would satisfy both sides.

Perhaps, the international community and its subsidiary beneficiaries of the oil bonanza may oblige him to mediate with Armenia, but Turkey and Russia, who are exerting their own influence to gain from this oil business, have assumed a more complex position vis-a-vis Azerbaijan which may complicate matters even more.

From the beginning of the Azerbaijan/Armenia conflict, there has been a deep subjective emotion within the Azeris, and many Turks, that Turkey should support Azerbaijan. But what happened was an ambivalent development of relations between the two countries.

Although Turkey was a supporter of the previous Azeri president "Ehcebey," whom was ousted by Aliyev as being the cause of Azeri losses, nothing tangible developed between the two countries, and even later on, the advent of Mr. Aliyev to power did not clear the mist in relations.

Turkey did not hesitate in supplying Armenia with electric energy when needed, indicating that business relations have more priority over subjective feelings, and the borders between Turkey and Armenia are open for trade. Mr. Aliyev may use this point to extract support from Turkey, but there is a feeling of assurance that Azeri oil will be exported through its own territory.

Russia is the other factor, for after creating much concern for Turkey when the agreement between the Greek-Cypriots and them was reached for the supply of missiles, this time, missiles were also supplied to Armenia, and positioned on its borders.

The danger is not only limited at this stage, to Azerbaijan alone. But Turkey as well as Iran are within the range of those missiles. One does not cause Armenia of belligerence, but it seems that Mr. Aliyev has more room to maneuver than many would think, and the oil consortiums have much more work to do.

Letters to the Editor

Excellent source of information

To The Editor,

Just a quick note to commend you on your online weekly paper and a small request.

Your timely, responsible, professional and valuable coverage is highly appreciated. I am a reader of your paper for the last two years or so, and I enjoy it very much.

Your paper is an excellent source of balanced information for us, Jordanians living overseas, which keeps us informed about our beloved country. I enjoy especially your business and economic coverage.

Since you are in a better position to know more about future and planned events, which are expected to take

place in Jordan, would it be possible to add an item or a heading that lists future events that will take place in Jordan.

This will give us the opportunity to participate in such events. It seems that you cover events (conferences, seminars and workshops) after they occurred.

Please keep up the good work.

Sincerely,

Taisir A. Hasan, Ph.D.
Euro-Arab Management School
C/ Carcel Baja, 3
18001 Granada - Spain
E-mail Taisir@eams.fundea.es

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Publisher & Editor-in-Chief

Osama El-Sherif

Managing Editor

Dr Morwan Al Asmar

Editorial Team

Roed Al Abed (Home News Editor), Ilham Sadeq (Economic Editor).

Yonnick Lainé (French Editor), Zeid Nasser (Technology Editor).

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Mahmoud Fores (General Administration), Qurban Hussain (Production),
Ali Nimer (Accountant), Zaki Qurban (Layout), Fouad Jbour (Archive)

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Business scene

■ Till the end of last month, the total number of Jordanian existing companies reached 46,220 operating at JD 4,128,183.

According to the monthly report issued by the Companies' Comptroller Directorate, Ministry of Industry and Trade, 371 companies were registered last August compared with 374 companies registered in the same month last year.

No shareholding companies were registered during last August, while two were registered in August last year at a capital of JD 234 million.

According to sectoral registration 29 companies were registered in the industrial sector last August compared with 28 companies in the same month last year.

In the trade sector 1210 companies were registered last August against 232 companies in August last year.

No company was registered in the agricultural sector during August 1996 and 1997. Six companies were registered in the contracting sector last August against 3 companies in August 1996.

In the services sector, 127 companies were registered last August compared with 110 companies in August 1996. Non-Jordanian investors who registered their business last August were 56; total non-investments registered from January till the end of August reached JD 9,753.

■ The total operating factories at the Amman Industrial Estate are estimated at 348 plants specialized in weaving industries, foodstuffs, metal and plastic pipes, electrical equipment, heaters, refrigerators, detergents, pharmaceuticals and ovens. The volume of their investments is nearly JD 1 billion.

These factories employ approximately 15,000 workers. The Industrial Estate in Sahab exports nearly JD 100 million per year. Over the first half of this year these factories' exports reached JD 19 million compared with JD 16.5 million in the same period last year.

Foreign Exchange

Wednesday, 17 September

	Buy JD	Sell JD
US \$	0.7080	0.7100
£	1.1510	1.1568
DM	0.4124	0.4145
SFR	0.4801	0.4825
FRF	0.1227	0.1233
YEN (100)	0.5624	0.5652
DEU	0.3667	0.3685
LIT (100)	0.0419	0.0421

Royal Wings rides high as it increases destination flights

By Iham Sadeq
Star Staff Writer

AFTER THE signing of the peace treaty between Jordan and Israel in 1994, the transport and tourism sectors were given a special concern. The stability that followed (though not encouraging) made travel agents and airlines boost their services and touristic flights between Jordan and Israel.

Royal Jordanian, with its international expertise, took the initiative to bolster its regional connections. It established Royal Wings in January, 1996 which first started to fly to Aqaba.

"The idea of establishing Royal Wings was a big challenge and it is by the support of His Royal Highness Prince Faisal who did his utmost to translate such a dream into reality," says Mr Ammar Balkar, Marketing and Sales Director of the airline.

He tells *The Star* that in the past there was only one daily flight to Aqaba, but with the establishment of Royal Wings, flights increased to two per day. Such flights are offered to either foreigners who want to visit Aqaba or plan to travel on RJ to Europe, the Far East or to local businessmen and tourists.

Some foreign tourists also fly to Israel to visit religious sites in Palestine.

To encourage tourism between Jordan and Israel, an



Balkar

air route was introduced last April, linking Amman with Tel Aviv's Ben Gurion Airport. Now, six flights operate weekly.

"We are negotiating with the Israeli authorities to increase these flights to seven."

Upon the request of some Jordanian tourists and travel operators, Royal Wings is organizing weekly charter flights to Red Sea resorts such as Sharm El Sheikh, Hurgada, Luxor and Aswan, Aslo, a link between these Egyptian resorts and Aqaba is to be established. This opens new horizons for tourism in the two countries.

"Since September, 1996 we have agreed with the Egyptian based, National Travel Service to operate one weekly flight between Sharm El Sheikh and Aqaba. Later, two flights will be organized," Balkar adds.

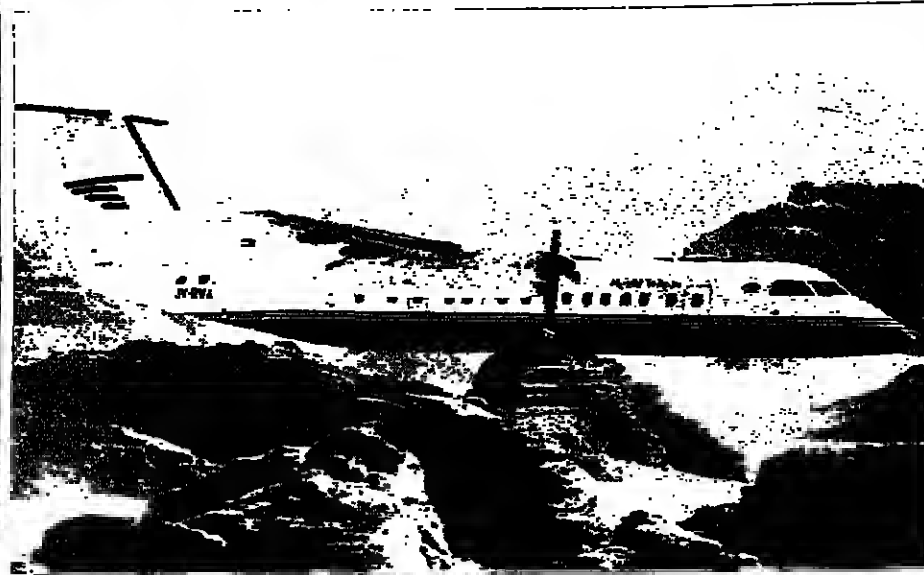
This kind of air transport is being welcomed because of the increase in demand. "We have received many requests from Germany and Britain to operate regular charter flights from Sharm El Sheikh and Hurgada to Aqaba."

In 1996 Royal Wings carried 24,466 passengers from Aqaba to Amman and vice-versa. This figure rose by 17.58 percent in 1997. Till last August the aircraft carried 28,767 passengers. Also, passengers from and to Tel Aviv rose by more than 100 percent reaching 13,145 passengers till last August. In 1995 charter flights were 22 but they rose to 51 flights up till last month.

All these flights are serviced by a Canadian safe and reliable Dash 8 aircraft which has 50 seats.

"We are planning to hire another aeroplane, and I hope it will be operational within the next two months," Balkar says.

Royal Wings will organize two weekly flights to Larnaka



airport, Cyprus, to be later increased to 4 flights. (The first starts on 17 October).

It will also organize two flights weekly to Al Areeesh upon an agreement with the Egyptian authorities, the first flight is due on 4 October. "It will be the first airline to fly to Gaza when the airport becomes operational."

Royal Wings flights take off from the Amman Airport at Marka. The reason behind such choice, Mr Balkar says, is that the airport is only five minutes from downtown Amman. Also passengers don't need to arrive at the port two hours in advance, half an hour is enough.

"When we chose Marka airport as our headquarters, we realized that it has all the infrastructure we need." Also the check-in is easy, the car park and the duty free shop are available on a 24-hour service.

Referring to the problems they face, Mr Balkar points out that "the main problem is the difficulty to get a visa for Jordanians from the Israeli Embassy, 60 to 70 percent of our passengers are Israeli tourists, because they are offered all facilities while Jordanians are not."

Also operating at Amman

Civil Airport in Marka is the Arab Wings Airline, which was established in 1976, and is completely owned by Royal Jordanian.

It organizes special VIP flights for businessmen, governmental institutions and foreign diplomats.

Arab Wings provides other services related to medical evacuation in case of emergency or accidents to carry patients to any hospital inside and outside Jordan.

These aeroplanes are equipped with all medical needs and a physician could be called to accompany the patient for any destination.

Such a service is operated upon request for either local businessmen or dignitaries or mainly from the Arab Gulf states.

"We fully co-operate with the Arab Wings as we already have joint administration, operation, handling and maintenance," Balkar says.

Currently, Royal Wings is ambitious through cooperation with the Arab Wings to modernize its maintenance hangars to make the Amman Airport a maintenance center for aeroplanes in the Middle East.

New service from National Express

AN AGREEMENT was reached between National Express, represented by Mr A.F. Ghazal, General Manager, and Fastlink, represented by Mr Robert Bevan, marketing manager.

The National Express will now be able to offer its cardholders a special deal to obtain a mobile phone service at a reduced price to be paid in installments, interest free.

National Express maintains constant contact with distinguished Jordanian companies to obtain the best price and easy payments for its cardholders.

Scientific Week seeks base for a sound national economy



His Royal Highness Prince Hassan stressed Monday that Jordan has achieved more openness towards the world economy and described the initial signing of the EU-Jordanian partnership as a step that opens new horizons for political, economic, and social cooperation with 26 EU-Mediterranean countries. Deputy Prime Minister for Development Affairs Dr Jawad Al Anani delivered a speech on behalf of the Crown Prince at the opening session of the Fifth Science Week inaugurated last Monday (15-18 September), reiterating that "Our only option is to build a sound national economy that can compete on the international market and cope with regional and global changes." The week which is organized by the Royal Scientific Society in cooperation with the Higher Council for Science and Technology, is given special significance as it sheds light on regional and worldwide challenges that require intensive efforts to improve quality, enhance competitiveness and productivity in all industrial and technical aspects.

Housing Bank embarks on Investment Fund

SUBSCRIPTION IN the Housing Bank Investment Fund started last Monday and will continue till October 16. The Fund will operate at a capital of JD 20 million.

Housing Bank Chairman, Zuhair Khouri describes the timing as encouraging since it coincides with an enormous economic development in the country. This trend is being enhanced through regulating new economic and investment laws that are designed to attract outside investments. The establishing of this fund also comes in line with the objectives of the monetary policy which calls for boosting instrument in foreign currency.

Mr Khouri stressed the bank's role in covering development requirements and adds that the banking sector is facing a stage which demands new investment tools (long-term and medium term). Such stage also requires enhancement of the banking sector abilities regarding finance and competitiveness.

He adds that this fund will invest in Jordanian dinars, which is beneficial to individuals, institutions, saving and pension funds and the Social Security Corp., as well as Arab or foreign investors who are willing to benefit from investment opportunities in Jordan.

The US-based, alliance capital, one of the highest international institutions, will be the investment director of the fund. The Housing Bank Investment Fund is an investment company with a fixed capital, established as a shareholding company in Bahrain with limited liability.

The money of the fund will be only invested inside Jordan, primary issue price is JD 100 for each investment unit. Its shares will be exchanged at Amman Financial Market and the Bahrain Securities Market.

Al Aqsa Islamic Bank to start activities soon

AL AQSA Islamic Bank was recently declared in Amman at a capital of \$20 million.

The Bank, which its headquarters in Ramallah will run its banking, investment and finance operations according to Islamic Sharia rules.

The Bank officially became public during a meeting of its general assembly. Headed by the Chairman Musa Shihadah, and who is also the head of the founders committee. The meeting was also attended by Comptroller of Companies and a representative from the Palestine Monetary Authority.

The Bank which is expected to start its activities soon, will concentrate on boosting economic co-operation between the Palestinian and Jordanian economies as well as enhancing ties between the Arab and Islamic Worlds.



Among shareholders in Al Aqsa Bank are the Islamic Bank for Development (Iqad), Al Baraka Holding Group, the Palestinian-Arab Finance House, the Islamic Bank of Jordan and prominent Palestinian, Jordanian and Arab businessmen.

Phasing out of leaded gasoline reduces health risks, studies suggest

BANK STUDIES in different parts of the world have shown that lead is one of the most serious environmental health hazards affecting growing urban populations. Lead impairs the mental development of young children, and increases the risk of high blood pressure, heart attacks, and premature death for adults, even at levels of exposure previously considered safe.

Recognizing the damaging effects of lead on human health and its cost to societies, the World Bank has been working with the governments of its client countries to tackle the main sources of lead exposure. It strongly supports the global phase out of leaded gasoline, a measure that reduces serious health risks at relatively low cost.

The World Bank recommends the total phase-out of leaded gasoline. It is urging countries in Africa, the Middle East, Asia, Latin America, and Eastern Europe that still use large amounts of lead in gasoline to take the first step by reducing the lead content of their gasoline to 0.15 grams per liter or less, followed by the introduction of incentives to encourage the use of unleaded

fuel, and accelerated elimination of lead. Lead contamination and exposure in cities is typically 3 to 4 times higher than in the suburbs and 10 times higher than in rural areas. For example, in the mid-1980s, children living in the center of Budapest had blood lead levels of 24.8 ug/dl (micrograms per deciliter)—three times higher than the 7.6 ug/dl average for suburban children. The result is that children living in the inner cities may suffer as much as a four-point IQ loss compared to those in the suburbs.

When leaded gasoline was banned in the United States, lead exposure dissipated quickly. In 1976, when leaded gas was still used extensively, the average blood lead level for Americans was 16 ug/dl, in 1980, it dropped to around 10 ug/dl, today the level is less than 3 ug/dl.

In many industrialized countries, improvements in car technology through the introduction of catalytic converters on new cars was the driving force for phasing out leaded gasoline. However, growing medical evidence of the dangers of lead should urge policy makers to phase-out lead from gasoline

faster and sooner than replacing all cars with new ones. The Bank is urging countries, therefore, to pursue the total phase-out of leaded gasoline independently from the use of catalytic converters. Countries could get rid of leaded gasoline within five years if they committed themselves to pursue a comprehensive phase-out program and set the right policies, such as fiscal incentives.

When political commitment exists and the right economic incentives are in place, leaded gasoline can be phased out easily and rapidly, as recent examples in Thailand and Slovakia have shown. The Bank has been assisting governments to increase public awareness of the problem, designing lead phase-out strategies, setting in place supporting fiscal policies, and mobilizing financing for refinery modifications.

The cost of refinery modifications and, if required, additives to increase octane levels or to provide lubrication rarely amount to more than US\$0.01-0.02 per liter of gasoline. The cost of increasing unleaded gasoline octane by one RON (Research Octane Number) has been estimated around \$0.002 per liter.

MARKET WATCH 14-16 September

Highest and lowest performing stocks in the Amman Financial Market

SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Initial Electricity 4.98 Jordan National Bank 4.55 Jordan Financial Investment 3.13 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Initial Electricity 5.17 United Land Development 4.05 Realty Cement Company 3.33 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Buata 5.38 Initial Electricity 4.92 Jordan Financial Investment 2.94 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Initial Electricity 5.08 East Hecla 5.04 Arab Aluminum 3.73
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Photostat Minc 3.90 Middle East Complex 1.46 International Education 1.46 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Middle East Hecla 4.80 United Land Development 4.05 United Engineering 3.23 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Arab Banking Corporation 4.93 Arab Insurance and Hecla 3.16 Jordan National Bank 2.94 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Central Trade 5.88 Arab Fresh 2.44 United Capital 2.52
General Price Pointer 176,550	176,220	176,110	174,690
Trade Volume 2007897	2228525	2808123	192611
Stock Volume 871690	370961	1439605	542671
Highest Traded Stocks			
Arab Bank 449000	Housing Bank 827959	Arab Bank 1340000	Arab Bank 1242268

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مكتبة من الكتب

Surging output in US allays rate rise fears

By Bruce Clark

WASHINGTON—US industrial output surged last month, against a background of very weak inflationary pressures, dampening expectations of an early interest rate rise.

According to figures published Tuesday, industrial production climbed 0.7 percent in August, compared with the previous month. The July rise was revised upwards from 0.2 percent to 0.4 percent. Compared with August 1996, industrial production rose 4.7 percent last month.

While the jump in output was higher than the market anticipated, price rises in August were unexpectedly small at 0.2 percent, the same month-on-month rate as July.

Wall Street rallied Tuesday morning as the positive consumer inflation news sent bond prices soaring in morning trading. By midday, the Dow Jones Industrial Average had risen 65.22 points or 0.84 percent to 7,786.36. The benchmark 30-year Treasury bond gained at 98, sending the yield to its lowest level in weeks at 6.462 percent.

The modest inflation figures from the Bureau of

Labour statistics reflected declines in the cost of clothing and air fares which offset an unusually steep rise of 1.7 percent in energy costs, mainly gasoline.

But analysts said they were struck by the continuing lack of underlying inflationary pressures. "Even though there are some special factors, the striking thing is that weak inflation is a broad-based phenomenon," said Richard Berner, an economist at the Mellon Bank in Pittsburgh.

Combined with the "extraordinarily ebullient" output figures, recent data

confirmed the rosy picture of strong growth, low inflation and low unemployment, he added. In other good news, the Commerce Department reported a modest 0.2 percent increase in business inventories in July, well down from the June figure of 0.7 percent.

More evidence of growth was provided by the Federal Reserve's report that capacity utilization in US industry last month was 83.9 percent, up from 83.6 percent and ahead of market expectations.

Some economists warned that inflationary pressure could not be staved off indefinitely, and it was possible the Federal Reserve would raise interest rates towards the end of the year. Jim O'Sullivan, an economist with J.P. Morgan, said he thought the Fed could make a pre-emptive move in November or December.

On Wall Street, the inflation news helped contain the damage caused by a profits warning by Eastman Kodak, whose shares sank by more than 11 percent by afternoon trading.

Financial Times Syndication

Jobs takes on temporary role as Apple chief

By Nicholas Denton

SAN FRANCISCO—Steve Jobs, the entrepreneur who co-founded Apple Computer and led the pioneering personal computer maker until he resigned under board

pressure in 1986, has formally returned to the helm of the company.

Mr Jobs, who has regained influence at Apple since he sold Next Software, a later venture, to the troubled PC company last December and took on the role of a part-time adviser, was named interim chief executive.

The board, which is being advised by Heidrick & Struggles, an executive recruiter, is searching for a permanent chief executive. It expects to announce an appointment by the end of the year. Mr Jobs has consistently said he did not want the job permanently.

Nevertheless, his temporary assumption of the post fills the management vacuum that followed the resignation two months ago of Gil Amelio, who helped revive National Semiconductor but failed to restore Apple to profitability.

The move only formalizes Mr Jobs' role. Mr Jobs, who was named as a director of Apple along with allies such as Larry Ellison of Oracle in a boardroom reshuffle last month, has been running the

company since Mr Amelio's departure.

He led the negotiations that resulted in the \$150 million investment by Microsoft, the software group and Apple's erstwhile rival. Under Mr Jobs, Apple also reversed its policy on licensing its Macintosh PC technology to "clonemakers."

But the absence of a formal title for him, besides that of adviser or director, exposed the company to potential shareholder lawsuits. When Mr Jobs began discussions with Bill Gates, chairman of Microsoft, he was not officially an Apple employee.

"The board needed to have somebody officially in charge," said Tim Bujarin of Creative Solutions, a Silicon Valley consultant close to Apple. "Without an actual appointment, there were questions of legal fiduciary duties."

Mr Jobs, in spite of his new role, will continue to spend time at Pixar, a computer animation studio that he chairs.

Financial Times Syndication

Czech president arrives to Jordan this week

Continued from page 1

The Czech Ambassador in Amman, Mr Tomas Smetanka says Mr Havel's visit to Jordan is part of a regional tour. The president will also visit Lebanon, Israel and the Palestine National Authority areas. The ambassador adds that the visit to this country is designed to underline the close values between the two countries and as an expression of the good relations between the president and the His Majesty King Hussein.

The state visit is also a show of support for Jordan and the peace process. Mr Smetanka maintains that the message Mr Havel is conveying is that, "there is no way of stopping the peace process," something that must continue to create a region of prosperity.

Mr Havel is heading a large business delegation. The Ambassador says that there are between 20 to 25 businesspeople representing some of the top Czech companies are coming with the president.

There is a wide scope for cooperation especially in the economic field. The Ambassador says that although Jordan-Czech trade relations is relatively small there could be a lot more room for improvement. In 1996 Czech exports to Jordan amounted to \$8 million. Most of these exports included Skoda cars, machinery and Czech crystal.

The business delegation, which is going to meet Jordanian businessmen through the Chamber of Commerce are looking for a number of commercial relations. They want to see whether they can jointly establish assembly lines in Jordan for making diverse range of economic activity

that include cement mills, printing machines and other machinery.

A number of agreements are hoped to be signed during the visit. The Czech Minister of Transport will be accompanying Mr Havel where an agreement on Air traffic services will be signed. This will open a direct airline route between Prague and Amman. Another agreement on encouraging and protecting investment will also be signed between the two countries.

Park Davis announces the launch of a new Antiepileptic drug

PARKE DAVIS

announced the launch of its new antiepileptic drug Neurontin (gabapentin) by holding a symposium at the Jordan Intercontinental Hotel attended by over 100 physicians and presented by Bernard Schmidt MD, PhD—Independent consultant for the development of CNS active compounds—Germany. The lecture entitled "Gabapentin: from Research to Therapy."

Dr Schmidt presented the profile of Neurontin as well as the latest data on its safety and efficacy he added that the new antiepileptic is already available in over 40 countries worldwide (including USA, UK, Germany, France and most European countries).

It is worth mentioning that Parke Davis



has a distinguished heritage within the antiepileptic field and is devoted to discovering, developing, manufacturing and marketing quality pharmaceutical products.

Amman Central Market at a glance

Continued from page 1

butchers' stalls, where imported meat going for about JD 2 per kilo is on display.

Tiny stalls selling chickens are scattered all over, with the slaughter houses at Mahaza and Irbid keeping the market's sheep and goat-meat buyers satisfied. At the market's main entrance there are women seated on the ground selling eggs, locally bred fowl, rabbits, ducks and doves.

On Fridays, movement is practically impossible as the number of sellers and buyers double. Clothes and shoes, electronics and carpets with no fixed prices surround you, and your bargaining power is what counts. If you're good you might come away with a decent pair of trousers for half dinar or a pair of second-hand shoes for JD 2. Just be careful not to buy back your own recently discarded shoes!

Many people specialize in recycling, scavenging anything imaginable to resell. These stalls attract buyers and sellers from Greater Amman and beyond. Mr. Muhammed Maji, a local businessman, says "I like being here on Friday despite the crowds, as you can hunt out many bargains." For tourists,

Fridays are probably the best time to meet the locals.

Suk Al Sukar is now known for its 'greens', for you can taste Jordan's vast array of appetizing fruits and vegetables, now more bountiful than ever due to recent agricultural developments. Oranges, red and green apples, apricots and grapes and water melons are found there, with yellow melons gradually gaining popularity. Of all the fruits in Jordan, however, the fig is the most remarkable. A Middle Eastern specialty, it is mentioned both in the Koran and the Bible, where the pear-shaped pulpy fruit is considered sacred.

Suk Al Sukar is also rich in vegetables. Miss Nariman Ahmed, a shopper, said "I like coming here as vegetables are cheaper. Seven kilos of tomatoes only cost half dinar. In Suk Al Khodhra, you'd pay 150 fils for one kilo."

As well as food and tradi-



Shopping down the central market

tional handicrafts, the fringe of the market houses numerous herb and spice specialists. These natural wonders have many valuable uses, for instance in flavouring food and for medicinal purposes. "Jordan is a rich source of herbs and spices and though some are imported, most produce is local," says Wail Sakini, a spice dealer at the market. Imports come from Iran and Pakistan

and other regions, whereas parsley is cultivated locally. There is thyme, sage and rosemary from Egypt, and dried peppers, cloves and juniper by the bagful. If you can't find what you need here, you can always try Suk Al Shabi, another popular market in Abdali. And if you can't find it there, you probably won't be able to find it anywhere.

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Chaos of war strips Sudanese of dignity, traditions, identity

By Stephen Buckley

SUDAN—The dancing begins at 7:25 a.m. as the thump of a drum splits the cool morning air in the Mangalore camp for the displaced. A bull's horn wails. A swell of song fills the air. Young men run and leap, legs splayed, Jordanesque, heads rising above the hopping, singing, chanting, ululating crowd.

Hundreds of Dinka tribesmen and women have gathered at the Duk-Fuel family compound for a traditional dowry celebration. But the occasion is marred by what is missing: There will be no cattle given to the Duk-Fuel family today, historically the central transaction at this ritual.

The Duk-Fuels must settle instead for cautious promises. The family whose boy wants in many a Duk-Fuel girl vows to give plenty of cattle when the four-decade-old war in this, Africa's largest country, someday ends.

"We will honor our agreement," the boy's uncle says. For all its joy, the dowry ritual reminds these Dinka families that the war has robbed them of a symbol central to their identity and culture—cattle.

Mabil Duk-Fuel sits in the family compound next to his niece Nyandier Duk-Fuel, 17. Joining them are Mabil's brother Mayar and another niece, Agot. Both girls will marry soon, although the next day's dowry ceremony is primarily for Nyandier.

The men say the absence of cattle has transformed the dowry process. Negotiations used to be held in which the boy's family agreed to give cows, sometimes as many as 100, to the Dinka girl's relatives; several families would make such overtures toward a single girl, in a process akin to competitive bidding. Nowadays the negotiations are still held, but they are about handshakes and pledges.

Holding the ceremony without cattle, Mabil says, reminds Dinkas that they have no property. "You cannot regain your land," he says through an interpreter. "That

is the great loss...We hope our leaders are working hard to get us back our land." Before the war caused institutions to collapse in southern Sudan, the Dinka were not only farmers and cowherds, but also high-court judges and civil administrators and doctors. They were the south's richest and proudest tribe. The cow has always been the focus of their culture. Myths rose up around the animal.

Dinka see the animal as the highest form of wealth. Today some Dinka retain their cattle, but many have lost their herds, which were killed in fighting or abandoned during the rush to camps for the displaced.

The loss has pierced the Dinka, so much so that they have altered their governing myths. Stories that once celebrated the tribe's greatness—they believed they were a people favored by God—now describe a people full of dismay and self-doubt. One story about how the Dinka came to love cattle has been turned into a tale of woe, in which God is punishing the tribe for devoting so much of itself to the animal.

"They have been shattered," said Francis Deng, a Dinka who is a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution in Washington. "They see themselves in a negative light for the first time...You can see how (the war) has torn at their self-confidence, their sense of dignity." War's obvious impact on Sudan has been well-documented.

Beginning in 1955, with an 11-year respite, the conflict between the government in the mostly Islamic north and armed groups in the Christian and animist south has left the country without institutions or infrastructure. The vast south, measuring 322,000 square miles, has 40 miles of paved road. In many areas, 90 percent of the population has no access to health care. The conflict has destroyed so many schools that, in the words of one veteran aid worker, "an entire generation of Sudanese is illiterate." Roughly 500,000 Sudanese refugees have poured into neighboring countries, and thousands of others,

especially professionals, have fled to the West. Fighting also has displaced about 4 million people within the country.

But the conflict also provides a case study of how war transforms societies in ways both subtle and profound. As the south's largest tribe, the Dinka have been among the most deeply affected. Dinka fighters long made up the core of southern separatist guerrillas and have paid with heavy loss of life; the more-numerous non-combatants among the Dinka have seen long-dear traditions and values slip away.

In Sudan the chaos of war has led to lost dialects, diluted traditions and shaken beliefs. It has shredded traditional family structure, so that millions of elderly—usually taken care of by their extended family—must fend for themselves. The war's one unexpected benefit is that it has forced more interaction among tribes. In many camps for the displaced, groups of people who traditionally have been among the south's most isolated must now tolerate each other as neighbors.

"The positive aspect is that the tribal lines are being blurred," said Deng. In the past, "intertribal marriage, or even marriage with a member of the same tribe from another part of the country, was very difficult. You didn't marry outside the tribe." But perhaps the biggest impact is that many Dinka have no cattle.

"They are literally fish out of water," Deng said. "They have been deprived of what has made them productive, healthy, dignified human beings." A dirt road slices through the Mangalore camp near Kajo Keji, about 10 miles north of the Ugandan border. The 14,000 people here live in mud and straw huts surrounded by plots of limp, leaning corn. The camp is virtually all Dinka, with their distinctive appearance—very dark skin, narrow-square shoulders, almond-shaped eyes, tribal scars on their foreheads. They tend to be quite tall. Manute Bol, former center for the Washington Bullets, is a Dinka. He stands 7 feet 7 inches.

There is a health center and a primary school, and organizations such as the American Refugee Committee and Norwegian People's Aid make regular food and supply distributions. The residents toil to make life as normal as possible. They have opened kiosks that sell cigarettes, soap, sugar and batteries. Men have opened a bicycle-repair shop under a tree. A woman has set up a clothing store, with turquoise and pink and black-and-white polka-dot dresses hanging on a line of bamboo.

The seemingly normal life, however, cannot hide evidence of the Dinkas' upheaval. Many children here have lost both parents. And the camp is filled with elderly couples left without relatives to care for them. In one tiny hut, Beer Lual's flesh and hair are as white as the pile of ashes at his bedside. Most of his teeth are gone. His skin is taut across his chest. His breathing is shallow and wheezy. His limbs, thin as smoke, are limp.

Lual, 72, lies on a piece of tarp. His hut, which he shares with his wife, Yar, 60, holds their belongings: half a bag of sorghum, leather sandals, a ragged trench coat, a pair of cordurois, an empty plastic cup, a can stuffed with rags. Lual and his wife did not expect things to turn out this way. They expected to while away their last



Sudan's Dinka of Kiriwa have lost all their cattle, a measure of their wealth, to the war. Here, Dinka and camp for the displaced do a dance in which they plead with international aid workers to help them.

days in the company of their 10 children, who lived around them in Bor, nearly 200 miles north of here. Before fighting forced him to flee to Mangalore four years ago, Lual owned hundreds of cattle, raised lots of goats and chickens, caught fish from the lake near his property. He and Yar lived a good life.

But war took the lives of their five sons; marriage has separated them from four of their daughters. Their 14-year-old daughter tries in vain to care for them. "Nobody takes care of us," Beer Lual said in Dinka through an interpreter. "If my children were alive, I would depend upon them. I thought my children would be around me."

Yar Lual digs and scratches in their plot from 6 a.m. to noon daily, trying to grow corn. But drought has snuffed out the crop this year; wind has snapped some of the parched cornstalks in two. Beer Lual rarely eats. That is because he was used to drinking milk regularly, but without cattle, there is no milk. (One aid group provided milk at a feeding center at the camp until last year.) "I try to prepare food for him and myself, but he doesn't eat the food," Yar said. "And we don't have money to buy."

Africa's longest civil conflict has taken a dramatic turn in recent months. The Sudanese People's Liberation Army has channeled through government-held ground since March, retaking at least nine towns in the south. The rebels are believed to be within 40 miles of Juba, capital of the south, but the government continues to hold the city and refuses to allow anyone to come or go—in effect, making its residents human shields rendering a rebel attack virtually impossible. Nonetheless, "we are in a better position than we have

been in the last 14 years," the rebel chairman and commander in chief, John Garang, a Dinka, said in an interview in Nairobi. "Government cannot reverse the trend and regain the initiative. The war is over."

On the morning of the dowry ceremony, Garang's words seem far away, as 30 young men run through a field in a line. One carries a multicolored parasol—red, green, yellow and blue. He is a brother of Gahak Gek Kuryom, 25, Nyandier's suitor. Gahak, a distant cousin of Nyandier, is in another town this morning, caring for a sick friend. The celebration roars on without him. In minutes about 100 men, women and children crowd into the Duk-Fuel compound. Someone from Gahak's family plants a flag in front of Nyandier's hut.

Another group of about 75 residents from the camp gathers on the fringes, watching quietly. Nyandier and Agot also stand on the fringe. Nyandier wears a splendid yellow dress, a gold stud in her nose, gold and silver earrings, a silver bracelet on her left wrist. Her hair is done up. She carries a black parasol and a white handkerchief. And when it is time, she and Agot point to groups of young men to dance for them. Two or three young men at a time rush to within inches of Nyandier and Agot, and twist, wave, hop, clap, sing and shout. Other teen-agers and young men do the same thing to other girls, as scores of attendants dance around a mango tree.

Then more than 100 people, including Nyandier and Agot, form a giant circle and dance. The men, voices like a wave, sing. Plumes of dust hug their feet. The dancing

will go on for two hours. Across the yard dowry negotiations are about to begin. Nyandier's relatives sit under a thick-trunked tree across from Gahak's kin. The two sides, about 20 men in all, are quiet. Gahak's kin sit in a tight circle. They engage in polite but intense conversation. "They trace numbers," says the ground. First "22." Then "25." They are deciding how many cows they will promise to Nyandier's family. Finally, one relative addresses the other side. "A young man stands between the two groups, repeating what has been said. One of Gahak's uncles: 'I want your daughter to be the wife of (Gahak). Please give this girl to us. Then I'll give you what you want. We are from one family.'

"We have known each other a long time. Let's make an agreement." A few minutes later, Moses Mawan, 50, Gahak's uncle and official representative here. "Before when we were in Bor, people bought cattle in these situations. Now, none of this exists, only the agreement. But we cannot stop our daughters from getting married." Then one of Nyandier's uncles responds: "We don't have anything to say now. As you know, there's competition. So we have to wait for the other suitors. Then the groups break up. The nearby dancing wanes. The singing quiets. Agot and Nyandier relax. The sun has grown hot. As relatives and neighbors scatter to their huts, the only sounds heard are the beat of the drum and the soft plaintive moan of the bull's horn. ■

LA Time-Washington Post News Service



Beer Lual lives in a refugee camp after losing his five sons and his livelihood in the war.

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How Russian missile gyroscopes were smuggled to Iraq

By David Hoffman

MOSCOW—In the city of Sergiyev Posad north of Moscow, known for an ancient Russian monastery, lies a high-security military plant that dismantles Russian submarine-launched ballistic missiles under the START I arms control treaty. The SSN-18 missiles arrive at the plant, the Scientific Testing Institute of Chemical Machine Building, with their warheads removed. But the rockets still contain highly sophisticated electronic guidance systems, including the gyroscopes used by the missiles to navigate to their targets.

In one of the most significant examples yet found of missile technology proliferation from Russia, independent investigators have now discovered how 30 gyroscopes from disassembled missiles made their way from Sergiyev Posad to Iraq, in violation of UN sanctions.

The gyroscopes were transferred to Iraq through middlemen and were fished out of a Tigris River canal near Baghdad by UN weapons inspectors on 9 December, 1995. A summary of the investigation by a think tank on nonproliferation issues here, the Center for Policy Studies in Russia, was made available to The Washington Post. Portions of the report were independently confirmed by Western experts.

The group's research suggests Russia's export controls were ineffective in stopping the shipment of the gyroscopes and the country's decaying defense-industrial complex might be an easy target for

smuggling of materials used to build weapons of mass destruction.

Many experts believe Russia's sprawling archipelago of military institutes and factories remains vulnerable to diversion, sale and theft of sensitive technology and nuclear fissile materials. The reason is that while nuclear weapons are kept under military guard, much of the defense-industrial system is unguarded or weakly protected.

Moreover, while the workers, engineers and generals who ran this vast complex were showered with subsidies in the Soviet era, they have fallen on hard times, creating powerful financial incentives to sell sensitive technology. At the time the gyroscopes were sent to Baghdad, Russia had pledged to obey the UN sanctions against Iraq and to follow the terms of the Missile Technology Control Regime, a global pact aimed at stopping the spread of missiles capable of carrying nuclear, chemical and biological weapons.

But Vladimir Orlov, director of the research center, said the study indicates the gyroscopes were diverted to Iraq without high-level involvement of the Russian government. He said in an interview, the smugglers and middlemen were motivated by profit and went right through the Russian customs service without being detected. "My impression is the Russian government was not informed and not involved," he said. "It was just business."

The case of the gyroscopes is "indicative of the larger problem, which is the lack of control over strategic technology, people and equipment," said Tim McCarthy,

senior analyst at the Center for Nonproliferation Studies at the Monterey Institute for International Studies in Monterey, Calif.

The gyroscopes are a key element in the quest of Iraq and other countries to build missiles that can carry weapons of mass destruction, he said. "If you are developing a long-range missile, for instance, to hit London and Washington and New York, you have to guide it," McCarthy said.

"It's very difficult to develop this technology indigenously. It requires tremendous expertise and equipment. You need high-technology guidance systems, and you need to purchase them. If the guidance systems can be obtained, he added, they "fill a gap the Libyans, Iraqis and Iranians cannot fill themselves." Under the UN sanctions imposed after the August 1990 Iraqi invasion of Kuwait and reimposed after the Gulf War, Iraq is prohibited from obtaining technology for missiles with a range greater than 93 miles.

The gyroscopes shipped from Russia came from the submarine-launched SSN-18 missile, which has a maximum range of 4,968 miles and could carry up to seven nuclear warheads. Iraq has no missile for which the gyroscopes would have an immediate military use. But specialists think Baghdad might have sought them for future development of long-range missiles. The gyroscopes, not much larger than cigarette packs, are "very lightweight and very accurate," said McCarthy. Older, Russian-designed Scud missiles, which Iraq possessed, do not use the same guidance system.

Twice in recent years, UN inspectors have come across shipments of missile gyroscopes to Iraq. One batch was intercepted in Jordan in November 1995 en route to Iraq. The origin of those gyroscopes is not known, but sources said they might have come from Russia. Orlov said he believes they came from Western Europe. The other batch was pulled from the Tigris River in December 1995 by divers working for the United Nations. It is not known how long they were in the water, but Orlov said his center's research shows with "100 percent certainty" that those 30 gyroscopes came from the Russian missile-disassembling plant. According to the report, that gyroscope shipment can be traced to 1993, when an unidentified Lebanese businessman came to the Scientific Testing Institute of Chemical Machine Building in Sergiyev Posad, a city formerly named Zagorsk.

The businessman proposed to buy some of the equipment taken from the missiles at a "reasonable" price. Also participating in the deal, the report said, was a company identified as TASM, located in a Moscow suburb and headed by a retired general, which specialized in delivery of optical equipment from the military industrial complex, such as binoculars and gun sights. "Fake documents were drawn up for the gyroscopes, as if they were electrical measuring equipment," the report said. In fact, according to Orlov's center, the gyroscopes are "dual use" instruments covered by Russian export controls; if they had been properly labeled, they could not

have been exported legally to Iraq. The gyroscopes were put in a box about 20 inches square that weighed about 65 pounds and shipped by air freight, via one or more third countries, to Jordan, the report says.

The box included other missile guidance gear. Orlov's group said it believes the gyroscopes eventually might have been delivered to the Karama research center near Baghdad. It is not known why the gyroscopes were dumped—or hidden—in the river.

The money involved in the deal is not clear. Orlov estimated it at \$90,000, but others have said the gyroscopes would be worth more. According to the report, it was "easy" for the Lebanese middleman to purchase the gyroscopes in Russia, they said, "missiles are dismantled in conditions of secrecy and under strict security."

But, they added, after compressing and cutting up the rocket, the parts go to a warehouse and the metals are sent to a smelter. In the warehouse, the secret label on the gear is removed, and the gyroscopes and other equipment are left in the hands of warehouse storekeepers. "In the storage facility, there was no control—none," Orlov said. "A lock, and one person. The gyroscopes—they didn't steal them, but they could have." He said the middleman purchased the gyroscopes with a written contract not dealing directly with the institute in Sergiyev Posad but with a commercial subsidiary connected to the warehouse. ■

LA Washington Post News Service

Australia answers assault weapon carnage with strict law

By Jeff Brazil and Steve Berry

HEALART, Australia—They love to adopt American styles here, from fast food to funky fashions, but there's one thing they want no part of: US off-the-charts gun violence.

That's why dairy farmer Paul Arundell, standing in line at his neighborhood's Firearms Collection Centre, is doing something very un-American: surrendering his assault rifle to be destroyed. In return, he will pocket a government check for \$400—more than twice the weapon's cost. And worth every pickel, Australian leaders say.

In the wake of the worst carnage ever by a lone gunman—the Port Arthur massacre of 35 men, women and children—the Australian government has undertaken the largest weapons buy-back program the world has known. By doing so, Australian lawmakers have wounded the country's powerful gun lobby and convinced residents that the greater good means sacrificing some of their most treasured possessions.

"I would rather have kept it," the 30-year-old Arundell says of his high-powered rifle. "But the law's the law ... and I understand why the government did what it did."

Since July, more than 500,000 semiautomatic firearms and pump-action shotguns have been relinquished to the Australian government, which has written more than \$260 million in rebate checks ranging from \$60 to several thousand dollars. After the barrels are bent in a hydraulic press, the weapons are ground to bits and used for scrap metal.

At the close of September, when the extraordinary program ends, semiautomatic assault weapons and pump-action shotguns will join machine guns as banned firearms. Depending on the gun and the individual, violations are punishable by fines of up to \$12,000 and two years in jail.

Australia's move leaves the United States as the last industrialized nation to allow its citizenry to possess assault weapons.

In a recent interview, Prime Minister John Howard says his "most effective line" in amassing support was "I don't want Australia to go down the American path." "There is a widespread view, and I think quite accurate, that the very high homicide rate in the United States is in part due to the lax gun laws," he says. "The gap between the United States and the rest of the world on homicide is just so great that that has to be an explanation."

Although Congress passed assault weapon restrictions in 1994, they were so diluted in compromises with the National Rifle Association and other gun interests

that the weapons are still widely available and taking innocent lives.

"I am normally fairly laissez faire about things," says Howard, a political conservative. "But...I don't think there's any reason on Earth why people should have access to automatic and semiautomatic weapons unless they're in the military or in the police."

Australia's Firearms Collection Centres seem ordinary enough, sandwiched between Pizza Huts, computer outlets and other mainstream storefronts. At first glance, the centers look a little like banks. But the customers are totting rifles, not deposit slips, and the transactions are anything but routine.

On a recent Thursday, as gun owners queue up at a collection center in Dandenong near Melbourne, some sniffle tears as they embrace their weapons for the last time.

Mark O'behir, a diesel mechanic, wells up as he watches a hydraulic press mangle a rifle his father gave him 15 years ago. "It's always been in the family," he says. "It was a tradition that my father would buy each of us a gun on our 21st birthday. Now it's gone."

David Nixon, a 71-year-old retired farmer, compares the loss of his gun to the grief of losing a beloved family member.

"People like me who use it for sporting purposes and nothing else, we're losing a part of our lives." Asked why he wanted to gaze through a plate glass window as his rifle was bent, he says: "Why is it important for you to go to your wife's grave and put some flowers on it once a year?"

Although Australia has had one of the higher rates of firearm casualties, it doesn't come close to America's. With 14 times Australia's population, the United States had 64 times as many gun deaths. Elsewhere the picture is even more dramatic: America has more gun fatalities in a day than Japan has in a year. According to a recent study in the *Journal of American History*, more people are killed with guns in the United States in an average week than in all of Western Europe in a year.

American youngsters are 12 times more likely to die by gunfire than their counterparts in the rest of the industrialized world, according to a recent study by the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

"There's always a comparison with the craziness that's going on in the states to get laws passed in other countries," says Susan B. Sorenson, a professor at UCLA's school of public health. "Here, we have a number of these large-scale violent incidents, but they have not, to date, served as a galvanizing force. We're very fond of our firearms."

So are Australians. And that similarity, among others, has persuaded many American gun-law proponents to argue that Australia's experience holds lessons for US residents and lawmakers.

Both nations were born with a kind of frontier mentality and a strong belief in gun ownership—although Australia has nothing akin to the Second Amendment, which gun forces interpret as a right to bear arms of all kinds.

Both countries also have powerful gun lobbies. But in Australia, the battle has been waged over rifles and shotguns, because handgun controls have been in effect since the 1920s.

In both nations, assault weapon legislation came only after major tragedies and public demands for change.

Australia was rocked by three major assault weapon catastrophes before the most stunning of all in 1996.

Pulling an American-made assault rifle out of a tennis racket bag, Martin Bryant, 28, opened fire in a diner, killing 20 people and injuring 12. He then mowed down 15 others in the establishment's parking lot, at a nearby general store and several other locations. A 6-year-old girl was shot in the neck at point-blank range while hiding behind a pine tree just feet from where Bryant had gunned down her mother and 3-year-old sister.

"It was a seminal day in the history of our nation," says Leonie Kennedy, national campaign manager for Australia's firearms buy-back program. "Everyone remembers where they were. It was almost like, where were you when Kennedy was shot?"

Within 12 days of the massacre, Australia's federal, state and territorial governments agreed to ban the possession and sale of all semiautomatic and pump-action firearms. The law also introduced a comprehensive gun registration system; a requirement for a reason other than self-defense to own, possess or use any firearm; a 28-day waiting period after obtaining a gun permit; a rule that all first-time applicants be trained in a weapon's use; restrictions on the transport of firearms; and minimum standards for storing firearms and ammunition, which must be kept separate.

To make it more palatable, the government ponied up \$500 million to reimburse gun owners, who were given up to 15 months to surrender their banned arms. The money was raised through a Medicare levy costing the average Australian about \$1.40 a week.

The initial reaction from Australia's gun lobby, which received financial support and strategic advice from America's savvy National Rifle Association, was swift.



More than 70,000 protesters flooded the streets of Melbourne, the largest demonstration on Australian soil since the Vietnam War. They argued that the law would neither reduce crime nor prevent another massacre. Many vowed never to give up their guns, threatening to bury them on their property.

The opposition was nasty. Members of Australia's National Coalition for Gun Control, which lobbied extensively for the new law, got messages on the Internet from American gun lobbyists calling them the "lowest form of life in the universe."

Politicians received death threats and, at one point, Prime Minister Howard donned a bulletproof vest before an appearance near

Melbourne as part of his nationwide crusade to mobilize support for the law.

Even leaders of Australia's pro-gun political party, the Shooter's Party, have given their blessing to the ban on assault weapons, though not the restrictions against other banned weapons.

"There's no need for these semiautomatics and pump-action shotguns," says gun lobbyist John Tingle. "They're weapons of war. They shouldn't be allowed for the average people."

With one month left in the buy-back program, the Australian government has collected 508,161 guns, most of which have been melted into tiny pieces.

Although government officials know

the law is no guarantee against another massacre, they are optimistic that it will greatly reduce firearms deaths and injuries.

Their hope stems in part from a 1994 study showing that Australian states with gun laws before the ban had the lowest firearms death rates in the nation.

In West Australia, which historically has had the country's toughest gun control laws, the death rate was 2.7 per 100,000 residents. In Tasmania, with the loosest laws, it was 7.2 deaths per 100,000.

LA Times-Washington Post News Service

India's no-pain, temporary body painting catching

By Vida Roberts

THE ANCIENTS of India knew a thing or two about body ornament. No dark and aggressive tattoos for them, thank you.

Traditional Indian enhancement is based on pretty and voluptuous painted swirls on hands and feet, and today's trendies are jumping on the idea.

Mehndi, as the 5,000-year-old art of body painting is called, is gaining adherents from Hollywood to Parkville. Demi Moore, Mira Sorvino, Naomi Campbell, the artist formerly known as Prince and his consort Mayte have appeared at star galas with henna-painted

body parts. At Usha Gupta's salon on Harford Road, the clientele is not as flashy, but enthusiastic.

Gupta, who was trained in the refinements of this ancient beauty service in India, has been a practitioner for 20 years. She has always had regular Indian clients, but recently the young and hip have started booking appointments for body paint. "In India, mehndi is worn for celebrations and auspicious occasions such as weddings," says Gupta, "but here the young people do it for fun."

On a recent morning at the salon, a gaggle of young women were waiting their turn to be painted. The painting medium is a henna paste that is

squeezed onto the skin with an applicator that looks like a small pastry tube. The dark squiggles and scrolls are left on the skin to allow the design to set, usually overnight. When the dried paste is flaked away, it leaves a stained skin pattern of red tints that can range from orange to deep red. The result looks like tattooing, but the experience is painless and pleasant and the effects temporary.

Danielle Finerman, a sophomore at the Maryland Institute, was there for a floral garland to accent her navel—a special effect for a weekend at the ocean. "I know a lot of people who are getting tattoos, but I think they'll regret it 15 years

from now. I think about the work world years ahead, and with tattoos there is only so much slack I could expect, even as an artist," she says.

Designs can be original or chosen from a book of ancient patterns. Young people seem to have an affinity for the old designs, says Gupta, but they are wearing them in untraditional ways. She has painted stomachs, backs, circles around the neck, arm or ankle and even full scalp designs on shaved heads.

That's where the Western way with mehndi differs from its origins. Today's fashionables are after a look to flaunt; the Eastern way is based on ceremony and intimacy.

In old Indian custom, a new bride joins her husband's household, where the mother-in-law runs the show. As the new-comer, the bride has her work cut out for her. The legend is that while the bridal mehndi patterns on her palms and feet remain, she is on honeymoon and exempt from household drudgery. That may account for the heavy concentration of patterns on the palms and soles of the feet, which hold the henna color more readily and longer than other body parts.

Grooms, too, are painted for the ceremonies, and the nuptial pair's wedding designs are the most complex and extravagant at the wedding festivities.

It's customary to weave the couple's initials somewhere into the paintings, the idea being for the young people to trace and find them among the swirls and arabesques. It's a charming way to send lovers on the path to intimacy and mutual discovery.

LA Times-Washington Post News Service



Ever felt like this?



A day inside Mandela's jail

By Sarah Murray

MANY WOULD once have paid money to get away from it. Today, people fork out large sums of cash to get there. Robben Island, the outcrop of rock in Cape Town's Table Bay where President Nelson Mandela spent 18 of his 27 years behind bars is the place to be, if the likes of comedian Bill Cosby and US first lady Hillary Clinton are to be believed.

In March, about 70 people paid R250,000 to attend a fundraising banquet with Cosby, Clinton and the South African president himself. It was held at an unassuming little building on the island that was once the commissioner's house.

Clearly visible from the shore and a constant reminder of the "struggle", the island in its post-apartheid life has been at the receiving end of jokes as minor disasters have beset official events there. A R200,000 luxury minibus being air-lifted to the island to carry banquet guests around fell into the sea about 3km from its destination.

In February, when US vice-president Al Gore turned up, the ferries that for years transported prisoners to their place of incarceration were deemed unsafe and US navy vessels had to be brought in at the last minute to take Mr Gore to his island tour.

Such mishaps do not seem to be deterring the tourists, however. Every morning at 9 am a long queue forms round the small visitor center (its atmosphere appropriately institutional) for a tour of the island.

On handing over our R80 for the trip, we are given what looks suspiciously like an attempt at humour boarding passes bearing numbers reminiscent of prisoner identification tags.

But behind the jokes, a serious message emerges from this rather bizarre tourist attraction. First, there is the astonishing revelation that all the Robben Island tour guides are ex-



Mandela

prisoners and ex-warders.

Then, as the ferry draws away from the quay, we are solemnly informed that we are part of "history in the making."

In other circumstances, such an announcement might come across as glib. But, as we leave Cape Town's booming waterfront development, glance back at one of the best ever views of Table Mountain and head towards the barren island where about 3,000 activists did time many of them now in South Africa's government the statement seems entirely

appropriate.

The tour is somewhat chaotic. Onshore we had queued up in a building not unlike a public lavatory and now we are being yelled at by a guide whose microphone has broken and is struggling to make himself heard above the roar of the bus's engine. But whether by accident or design, the makeshift nature of the excursion proves strangely effective.

The initial shock of finding that the whole tour of the island will take place from within our ancient-looking bus is replaced by a feeling that we are getting the "authentic" prison experience.

This is enhanced by the fact that no one is allowed to get off it at any time (the dry terrain, it is explained, and the absence of fire-fighting equipment means the risk of smokers setting off a blaze cannot be taken).

Bad jokes are made by the guide. We are told a prize goes to the first person to identify an animal standing near our

Since it is hard to see anything much through its filthy windows, only one of our party a German who is clearly next to a section of glass from which the dirt has finally eroded manages to spot the springbok. "Ah!" the guide proclaims, looking down at him with a smile. "Your prize is to go home the rest of you get to stay here for the next 20 years." Unsurprisingly, the joke falls flat.

At the quarry where prisoners were put to work breaking stones, the bus fills with choking dust that gives us a glimpse of the grim daily conditions they endured.

But the piece de resistance and what everyone has been waiting for as they nod with feigned interest at the second world war bunkers and the rotting hulk of a shipwreck is the cell of Mandela himself.

Conditions at the prison are not what shock, though. The diet of mealies and porridge may have been austere and positively cruel when set against the salmon tartare with cucumber salad consumed by celebrities at the gala banquet but far more impressive is the guide's account of how the island acquired its nickname "The University."

As conditions were relaxed, prisoners took correspondence courses. Studies in politics or history were not permitted but some inmates ran unofficial studies. Many emerged from jail with degrees.

At the end of the tour the guide pauses. "You may wonder why I am here, working with the people who used to push me around," he says. He's hit the nail on the head. It is the question burning on our lips.

He explains that the world must be reminded of a period of history not to be repeated. But while his words are identical to those recited to the previous group, they are spoken with passion.

Before the island was opened to the public earlier this year, the government rejected proposals for a resort or theme park. Change is inevitable, however. A museum is to be built with the proceeds of the banquet and no doubt the rickety buses will be replaced by air-conditioned vehicles. But while improved facilities are badly needed, it is to be hoped that restraint will leave what is now a strange and thought provoking experience intact.

Financial Times Syndication

'Saint of the gutters' laid to rest



● Mother Teresa was laid to rest, Saturday, in the spartan building that houses her missionary headquarters in Calcutta. About 100,000 people lined the city as the cortege travelled through its streets. Over 400 foreign dignitaries attended her funeral. These included Her Majesty Queen Noor, Queen Sophia of Spain, Italy's President Oscar Luigi Scalfaro, India's President KR Narayanan and Prime Minister Inder Kumar Gujral. Philippine Former President Corason Aquino also attended. Mother Teresa was dubbed as the "saint of the gutters" because of her work in helping the destitute.



They'll leave the lights on for you at Vietnam hotels

By David Lamb

HANOI. Vietnam—New hotels are sprouting here like mushrooms. A Hilton is under construction. So is a Sheraton. There's talk of a Marriott. Six other luxurious international hotels are nearing completion.

But with tourism dropping—particularly here in Vietnam's capital and one of Asia's loveliest cities—tourist industry officials are starting to ask: Who's going to fill all these rooms?

After a brief flirtation as Asia's newest "in" tourist destination a few years ago, Vietnam's room-occupancy rate has plummeted, to 52 percent in Hanoi and 48 percent in Ho Chi Minh City.

Hanoi attracted only 143,000 tourists in the first six months of 1997, for a projected full year, that's 30 percent below the city's target.

Hanoi Tourism officials said, Vietnam Airlines, the national carrier, saw its passenger loads increase by only seven percent in the first

seven months of this year, after annual increases of up to 42 percent from 1993 to 1996. Some small hotels have cut their room rates in half, to about \$20 a night, though luxury hotels still average around \$150, which is cheap by Southeast Asian standards.

The government has responded by ordering a construction ban in Hanoi on mini-hotels with 20 or fewer rooms. It is considering extending the ban to other cities. It also has set up staff training programs at state-owned hotels to improve service.

At the heart of Vietnam's attempt to tap into the lucrative tourist industry enjoyed by Thailand, Singapore, Malaysia and most Southeast Asian countries, lies the history of the past. After a generation of warfare and the dark years of isolation from 1975 to the start of an open-market economy in 1986, Vietnam started at zero, with neither tourists nor a tourist infrastructure.

Vietnam since has made remarkable progress. The number of foreign visitors grew from 300,000 in 1991 to 1.6 million last year and the lackadaisical service that characterized the socialist era has been replaced by service so genuinely gracious that visitors might be excused for feeling the need to encounter a surly New York waiter to return to reality.

But Vietnam remains hampered by the absence of a global marketing campaign—a luxury it can't afford—and a strategy to target the type of tourists it wants to attract.

The vanguard of the country's Western tourist trade was made up of backpackers who traveled Vietnam on the cheap. More recent visitors have included former US servicemen and well-heeled European and American travelers for whom Vietnam remains an exotic, as-yet-undiscovered destination.

"You can safely say Vietnam has a huge tourist potential," said Sarah Grant, an executive at Hanoi's five-star Sofitel Metropole.

The stately French colonial hotel, renamed the Unity Hotel in the days of Soviet influence in the 1970s, fell into disrepair but has been extensively renovated to recapture its old grandeur.

"Vietnam has lovely cities, friendly, energetic people—and brand-name recognition because of the war, which may sound horrible to say but

is undeniably true," Grant said. "Right now, I think, the industry is in a transition. We've moved beyond the backpackers and real adventurers who were the first to come, but there's not yet enough to offer the large mainstream of the tourist industry."

Certainly no one disputes Grant's contention that Vietnam has potential. Its beaches, pristine and deserted for countless miles, are among Asia's finest. Its cities are full of the romantic mystique popularized by Graham Greene. Its central highlands have the mountainous beauty of New England. It has a rich history and a vibrant culture.

"Within 10 years, this will be another Bali," said Paul Stoll, general manager of the just-opened \$40-million Furama, Vietnam's first five-star resort. Located on China Beach in Da Nang, three miles from the former US Marine R&R complex popularized in a television series, it stands on property once occupied by the post exchange of a Marine helicopter base.

"Well-traveled tourists have been to Thailand," Stoll went on. "They've been to the Philippines and Bali. They're looking for new destinations and Vietnam has it all: The fact that Hanoi has too many hotels and isn't in tune with the tourist industry is common in most pioneering marketing environments. It happened in Bangkok, too."

"People discover a place," Stoll said. "There are too few rooms. A lot of new hotels go up. At first you can't fill the rooms. But eventually the demand and the infrastructure catch up and a solid tourist industry evolves."

In traditional terms, Vietnam's tourist arrivals are less than officially reported. The government says the largest number of tourists—32 percent of the total—come from China. But many of those visitors merely cross over Vietnam's northern border for a few hours of shopping.

"The country's building boom is a result of hotel projects coming on line from 1992 and 1993 when Western and Asian investors were captivated by Vietnam's newly opened market economy. Also responsible was the anticipation of the Francophone summit that will be in Hanoi in November and is expected to attract 50 heads of state."

LA Times-Washington Post News Service

ROCK TRACKS

By Stacy Jenel Smith

First, HBO announced plans to make a cable film about slain rap star Tupac Shakur. Now Quincy Jones is closing a deal with Tupac Shakur's mother to make a feature about Tupac's short and violent life. There has been talk that



Jones, whose daughter Kidada was romantically linked with Shakur, has wanted to make such a film since the rapper's death last year.

Now Jones confirms his intentions, adding that the saga will also incorporate some of the life of Afeni Shakur, Tupac's mother, a Black Panthers leader.

"We hope to make a film that will be a message to the kids, one that's very important. I think his story is a metaphor for a lot of things that are happening today," says Jones—who acknowledges that Shakur's story "is very close to our family" and that dealing with the murder was "very rough." (Jones has six children; Kidada and Rashida are his daughters by Peggy Lipton.)

Referring to the aspect of Shakur that allowed him to be considered one of the more shy, sensitive students at the Baltimore Academy of the Arts, Jones says, "There's a part of Tupac people weren't aware of that needs to be focused on. A lot of what he was playing in the rap arena was theater. He said he was tired of playing that farce. It was what eventually took him out."

Jones is soon to head to Italy at the request of Kidada, who's been a fashion rep for years, to "do the runway" with her at the Vibe fashion shows in Milan and Florence. He notes, "Last year she took Tupac."

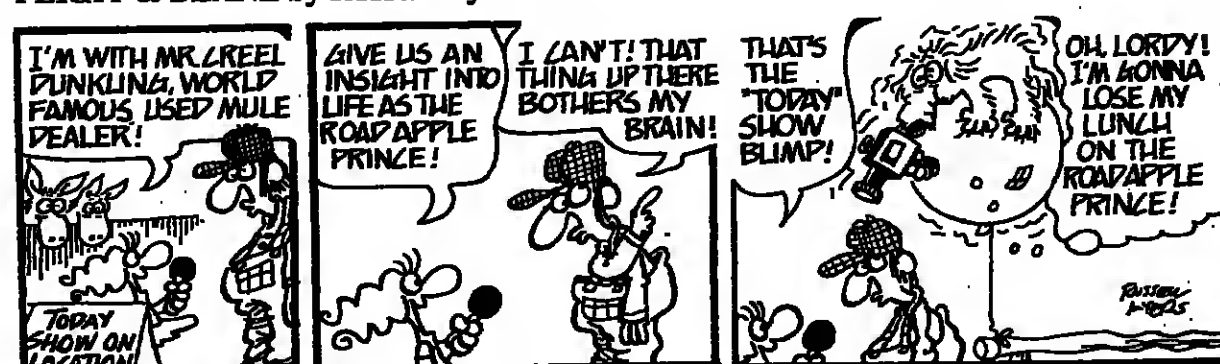
Platinum blond singer-songwriter Gwen Stefani, the lead singer of No Doubt (and gal pal of hunky rocker Gavin Rossdale), intends to get her pretty feet into the acting world. She signed with Hollywood's United Talent Agency to link her up with acting assignments.

The Beatles finds go on and on. Last month, the big excitement over Paul McCartney's discovery of a notebook containing never-recorded Lennon-McCartney songs was followed by the emergence of a tape of John Lennon and Paul McCartney singing together—four years after the breakup of the Beatles, when the two were at odds. Also on the 30-odd minute tape, Stevie Wonder and Harry Nilsson. Lennon's one-time mistress May Pang wrote about the amazing L.A. studio jam session years ago in her "Loving John" book—and the report met with outright disbelief in many quarters. McCartney acknowledged the recording on British TV during a promotional interview for his new "Flaming Pie" album. He said he, too, wished he knew what had happened to the tape. Less than a week later, it was announced that Liverpool salesman Phillip Aldridge had it. Aldridge apparently thought he had outtakes from a Beatles' recording session circa the '60s until he heard Paul's description of the '70s get-together—during which Paul ended up playing drums. Aldridge now plans to auction off the tape. Bidding will probably start at \$2.3 million.

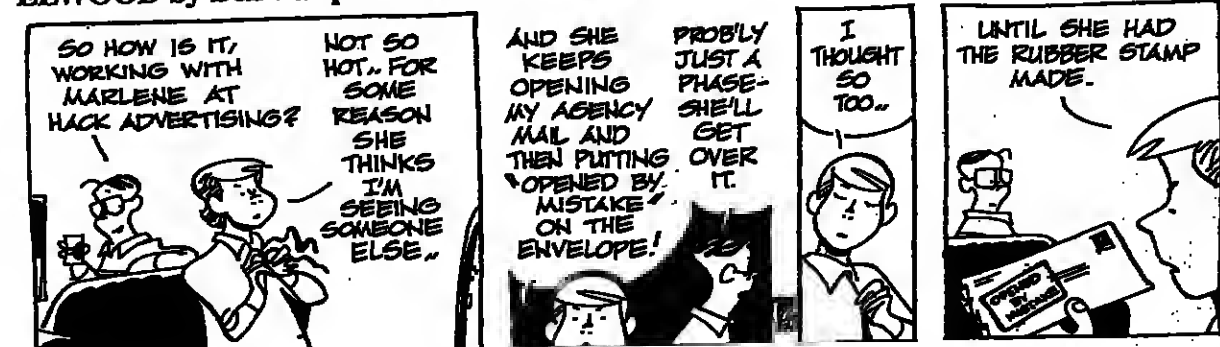
Hot saxophonist Boney James is still thrilling over working with Al Jarreau on the "I Still Dream" single off James' new Warner Bros. Records CD, "Sweet Thing." Jarreau, he says, "was really completely open and super, super nice. The only drag was that he likes to work late at night. We were in there from 8 p.m. till like 4 in the morning. I usually work from 2 to 10." James is scheduled to head out on his own tour in August.

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PERKY & BEANZ by Russell Myers



ELWOOD by Ben Templeton & Tom Forman



CATFISH by Fred Wagner & Tom Cone



A Hack's Pro Philip Knightley Jonathan Cap 267 pages

Reviews Stewart D.

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Insight into meaning of foreign affairs

A Hack's Progress, by Philip Knightley, London, Jonathan Cape £17.99, 267 pages

Reviewed by Stewart Dalby

IN THE days when foreign coverage was predominantly in newspapers, before TV really took over, a surprisingly small group of hacks, as they are known, would rove the world covering the trouble spots. They would see little of each other at home but hail one another like long-lost brothers and more recently, sisters, when on the road. There was no design to their lives, just a string of shared anecdotes going nowhere. A novel short of a decent plot.

You know the kind of thing. "I arrived in the Semiramis Hotel in Cairo... several old colleagues were at the bar. I had not seen old Johnny Wainwright since Saigon. He was drunk then too." It is all good knockabout stuff but usually adds little to knowledge about issues of the day when recycled in hard covers.

Philip Knightley's book is a cut above most biographies in that it is not only a funny and sometimes moving personal memoir, but also an insightful commentary on the changing nature of journalism in Britain. His periodic attempts to break out of journalism, as an island trader to Fiji, a vacuum cleaner salesman and a putative yacht charterer in the Caribbean (he got as far as Falmouth in Cornwall and retired sick after three days), are amusingly told.

His adventures on robust newspapers in Queensland, Melbourne and Sydney he admits to making up a rapist story when there was nothing else to put on the front page create a convincing picture of just what a narrow provincial place Australia was after the second world war. Its police were corrupt, its judiciary hypocritical, the politicians limited. The pubs closed at 6pm. Once he took a young woman out to dinner. The next time he called he was met by her father who barred his way

and said: "No gentleman would take a decent girl out to a Chinese restaurant." Knightley found Australia sullifying and yearned to break into London's Fleet Street.

The heart of the book concerns the period when Knightley did finally manage to slow aboard *The Sunday Times* in London in the 1960s. He calls this period a "Golden Age" in British journalism. It is hard to disagree with this. Lord Thompson was a non-interfering proprietor, and Sir Denis Hamilton and, later, the mercurial Harry Evans outstanding editors.

Like a football team, it managed to get the chemistry of the staff right (many were Australians). Week after week it seemed *The Sunday Times* came up with important investigations or scoops, many of which were later turned into books. The secret lives of Lawrence of Arabia, the tax avoidance of the Vestey family, the Burgess and Maclean spy scandals, the Thalidomide drug scandal saga. Anyone was fair game, big corporations, the government, the day, the CIA, powerful financiers.

A quiet and thoughtful man lacking the braggadocio of some of his colleagues, I always thought of Knightley as the tone of the *Sunday Times*, quietly working away when everyone else was chasing about. He usually got his man, as when he secured

the famous interview with the British master spy Kim Philby in his Moscow apartment. Sometimes he didn't, be swept along in the running of the

with libel lawyers is surprisingly lively. But it is also accompanied by a serious discussion of the issues involved: which circumstances justify cheque-book journalism? Where does the public interest end and the privacy of the individual begin?

In the end, did these stories make any difference? Knightley is not sure. He says: "In journalism schools and me

win for them decent compensation. But in truth, that is too simple and the reality much more ambivalent. It has taken me 20 years to face up to the fact that *The Sunday Times* Thalidomide campaign was not the great success it was made out to be and that the full story is as much about the failures of journalism as its triumphs.

"Personally, I think these campaigns did help change things. Certainly stories of this magnitude started to dry up after Rupert Murdoch took over *The Sunday Times* in 1981. Knightley explains why: "Soon after Neil arrived [Andrew Neil, Murdoch's new editor] he started to prune the editorial staff... Under Evans [Harry] reporters sometimes went months without getting a story into the paper... Evans was a compulsive recruiter of talent and was always hiring people at parties, in lifts, in pubs... until

The Sunday Times probably had three times the number of journalists needed to produce it... But this was one of its strengths. Fierce competition meant editors had a vast pool of stories to choose from." Campaigning journalism is labour intensive, expensive and not every story works. Investigations have not disappeared altogether: one thinks of the *Guardian* particularly. But the downsizing most newspapers now go in for militate against Thalidomide type stories. At a time when an investigative journalist is often someone with a telephoto lens who manages to snap a public figure canoodling or worse Knightley's book is a nice reminder that journalism can not only be fun but also still a noble calling. ■

dia courses they use the Thalidomide scandal as an example of campaigning journalism at its finest. Fearless journalists take on a huge corporation which is behaving badly towards child victims of the corporation's horror drug and after a long bitter battle



A species of sexual weirdos

Why Is Sex Fun? The Evolution Of Human Sexuality by Jared Diamond, Weidenfeld & Nicolson £11.99, 268 pages

Reviewed by Michael Thompson-Noel

WE ARE even more bizarre than we think we are. The main features of human sexuality long-term bonding: joint parenting; a preference for private sex; concealed ovulation and almost non-stop sexual receptivity in females; sex-as-fun (as opposed to sex expressly for fertilization); and female menopause probably strike most of us as normal-sounding by the standards of the world's 4,300 other mammal species.

As Jared Diamond explains in this (admittedly fairly speculative) account of how human sexuality came to be the way it is, we are amused, irritated or disgusted by the specialized sexual carryings-on of elephant seals, marsupial mice or orangutans. Yet even by the standards of our closest relatives, the other great apes (chimpanzees, baboons, gorillas and orangutans), it is we humans whose sexuality is truly bizarre, says Diamond. In fact, sex-wise we are practically the weirdest creatures in the animal kingdom.

Diamond, professor of physiology at the University of California, Los Angeles and an acclaimed natural history writer, says that human sexual strangeness is revealed most starkly when we compare ourselves with the other great apes (as opposed to the gibbons or little apes). Our human ancestors diverged only about seven million years ago from the ancestors of chimps and baboons, nine million years ago from the ancestral gorillas, and 14 million years ago from orangutans' ancestors. Within the relatively short period during which humans and the other great apes have been evolving separately, says Diamond, we have diverged from them in only a few significant respects, and then only modestly.

But some of these modest differences especially our upright posture and larger brains have had a disproportionately large impact on our behavior, as has the development of our sexuality.

"It is clear," writes Diamond, "how our large brain and upright posture played a decisive role in what is termed our humanity in the fact that we now use language, read books, watch TV, buy or grow most of our food, occupy all continents and oceans, keep members of our own and other species in cages, and are exterminating most other animal and plant species, while the [other] great apes still speechlessly gather wild fruit in the jungle, occupy small ranges in the Old World tropics, cage no animal, and threaten the existence of no other species. What role did our weird sexuality play in our achieving these hallmarks of

humanity?" To set the scene, Diamond discusses the battle of the sexes: the differing reproductive strategies of human males and females. He has little that is new to say on this topic, though males are guiltily reminded that if they are contemplating a spot of extramarital sex, the most profitable genetic and biological strategy is to concentrate on married, rather than unmarried, women. In the hope that the woman's husband will unknowingly rear the resulting offspring and thus improve the philanderer's overall output of children.

On the other hand, says Diamond, a woman who seeks searching for a new marriage partner, or at least a lengthy extramarital relationship with a male boomer equipped than her husband to provide resources or good genes.

After that, Diamond throws in a singularly ill-fitting chapter "Why Don't Men Breast-Feed Their Babies?" before returning to his main theme by discussing the reasons why human females do not provide clear signals when in ovulation: why they are almost constantly in a state of sexual receptivity; and the possible reasons (other than the obvious one) why humans indulge in so much recreational sex. Almost always, the answers to the questions Diamond poses are complex, subtle and unexpected.

For example, he argues that the phenomenon of female menopause was among the biological traits essential for making us distinctively human, a creature qualitatively different from the other apes. In his opinion, female menopause may have boosted our species' chances of survival because of the importance of old people to their tribes in prehistoric societies, especially as repositories of information and experience relevant to natural disasters such as crop failures, drought and cyclones. The female menopause, he says, may have originated partly or mainly because of the importance to their tribes of the "memories of old women."

The old men of the tribe, conversely, were not at risk from childbirth or from the exhausting responsibilities of lactation and child care, so did not need to evolve menopausal protection to match that of their mates.

Why Is Sex Fun? is not as gracefully written as Jared Diamond's two big best-sellers, *The Rise and Fall of the Third Chimpanzee* and *Guns, Germs and Steel*. At times it reads like a textbook even a polemic. In fact, it is part of a science series to which Richard Dawkins, Richard Leakey, Stephen Jay Gould and Steve Jones have contributed or are due to do so.

Nevertheless, it is an entertaining and sometimes engrossing account of the evolutionary forces that have turned us, relatively speaking, into a species of sexual weirdos. ■



Financial Times Syndication

Financial Times Syndication

Marvin's celebrity bandwagon

Lee: A Romance, by Pamela Marvin, Faber £15.99, 423 pages

Reviewed by Nigel Andrews

PAMELA AND Lee Marvin were married for 17 years before Lee died in August 1987, after struggles with drinking, smoking and finally cancer. One should probably add "movie stardom" to the list of health perils. Without the fame and money that Hollywood bestowed, on a career growled out under a monsoon of white hair in films such as *Paint Your Wagon*, *The Dirty Dozen* and *Cat Ballou* (Best Actor Oscar), Marvin might never have suffered the historic, high-stress palimony trial brought by a past girlfriend, which Pamela narrates nay, virtually transcribes in exhausting detail.

The three-month legal wrangle, which coined the very word palimony, comprises 187 pages of a 423-page book: reams of playscript dialogue between the lawyers, the judge, the defendant (Michelle Troia) and a cross-section of witnesses so surreal that they might have been subpoena'd by Monty Python.

Gene Kelly, Mel "Velvet Fog" Torme, director John Boorman and ex-porn star Dick Doughty all pass through, helping to prove (at least according to Pamela) that Michelle was a pushy broad with limited singing/acting talent who climbed on Lee's bandwagon shortly after fame had brightly painted it.

Even though Marvin was acquitted, the evidence is presented here so partially with Pamela all but hissing at the plaintiff from the wings that we may soon, God help us, have an answering tome from Michelle.

Do these passages help us understand the celebrity at their center? Not really. Here as elsewhere, he is a macho angel with whiskers for wings and stardom for a halo, whose laconic epigrams slay every pest and paparazzo. He also catches marlins for recreation being also catches a Hemingway character, he presented as to and wages war on social almost has to and quizzing a duchess at a party or by quizzing a

priest (at another party) on whether he is gay. "I suppose this was Lee's way of shaking his fist in his deep rage and frustration at God," writes the unstoppably resourceful Pamela, reprimanding on his behalf a fate that brought her husband celebrity, beautiful women and sackfuls

as a punchbag without ever really removing the gloves, had the finest basso lirico voice and subtlest ironic twinkle in late-century he-man cinema. He didn't just act in movies, he inscribed in them his own postmodern commentary. He was vast with silent amusement at his own persons.

We don't want a whitewash biography, we just want a laying out of the truth. But Pamela Marvin thinks that every hostile reader response must be anticipated and defused. She cannot just test our patience with 35 prees on deep-sea fishing, she must test it further by explaining that Lee was a humane angler. He would always throw the fish back, even when it weighed about three tons and was a menace to marine life itself.

Very late, and without notice, the book gets better. After Pamela starts giving Lee some contours and character. The final chapters, describing his illness and her bewilderment at his behavior patterns (why does he refuse to let her come to Israel for what will prove his last movie shoot, on *The Delta Force*?) are tense, intriguing, touching, honest. And she reprints, fearless of invidious contrasts with her own prose, a quite superbly written testimonial to Lee by actor William Hurt.

Like most Hollywood stars Hurt is mildly deranged. Unlike most of them, he is also intelligent. His marlin story involving Marvin is a beauty: cautionary, shocking, poetic, a truly Hemingwayesque yarn. And when he writes of Lee "He was such a delight that I enjoy missing him," we feel the buzz of an original mind flying around one of the true originals in screen acting. Yes, absence is tragic. Yes again, filling or libating that absence with memory is a beautiful feat of which only human beings are capable.

Marlins you throw back in the sea. Marvins you must cherish and keep near you even when they are long gone. ■

Financial Times Syndication



of money. The sad thing about this book, a hagiography of a man who surely never wanted to be perceived as a saint, is that Marvin was lovable on screen. That pugnosed pugilist who used all passing life

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AROUND TOWN

Omega in Pan Arab Games '97 in Beirut

OMEGA'S EXPERIENCE in measuring recording and timekeeping of sports is unmatched by any other leading watch brand. Omega was the first official timekeeper of the 1932 Olympic Games and has continued this tradition throughout the 21 past Olympic games since then, including the latest held in Atlanta, USA in 1996.

Recently, Omega has been assigned to handle the data and be the timekeeper of the soccer plus the track and field disciplines during the Eighth Pan Arab Games that took place at the renovated "Camille Chamoun" Sports City in Beirut last July.

Omega will soon be celebrating its 150th Anniversary. Omega's ambassador Michael Schumacher, World Champion Formula 1 driver, reflects the dynamism of the Omega brand and its appeal to a new generation of entrepreneurs in search of a sports watch with character and good looks. ■



Diversity of art at the 'little house'

By Hala Shaker
Special to The Star

With the belief that artistic creativity is a key determinant to people's identity, culture and history, Darat Al Funun, the small house of art, has created a milestone in building a modern Arab culture. Since 1995 Darat Al Funun of the Abdul Hamed Shoman Foundation has held a Summer Festival. This is an annual event where a wide range of cultural and artistic achievements can be witnessed and enjoyed by artists and the public alike.

Summer Festival '97 was opened on 26th August under the patronage of Princess Wijdan Ali, president of the Royal Society of Fine Arts. Mr Ibrahim Nassrallah, director of cultural and information affairs told *The Star*, "this annual celebration of arts is the only one of its kind in Jordan" adding that the importance of such an event lies in the fact that this festival is in constant renewal. The most recent developments and changes related to styles, technique and themes of the works of art created by Arab artists are displayed and introduced to the public at large to be viewed and assessed."

The participants are prominent and professional Arab artists living in the Arab World and abroad. In Europe and/or America together with some new promising talents.

What distinguishes it from the other monthly exhibitions in the galleries of Darat Al Funun is that the festival is a harvest of the whole year's works. Many of those exhibited were executed at the workshops of Darat Al Funun.

Within the framework of the festival, is a number of solo and group exhibitions. In the Darat's South Hall spectators can look at the Graphics III exhibition. These include the works of three of the most prominent Arab graphicists: Iraqi Rafe' Al Naseri, Syrian Ziad Dalloul and Moroccan Najia Mehadij.

Naseri's works reveal the essence of a long journey. The charming harmony between the old and the new suggests also a state of dreaminess inspired by reality.

Dalloul's works, have a special flavor, deep meanings, original colors built by a creative talent and fruitful exposure to Arab and Western horizons.

Najia's experience introduces us to the substance or the spirit of material in her works. Creativity, motion, and tranquility are all there through her geometric shapes.

The Middle Hall hosts paintings by the Jordanian artist Dr Mohammad Qaltouqua, whose unique blend of style and materials such as pigments, paste and acrylic on wood, takes viewers straight into the heart of art.

In the North Hall and at the Outdoor Sculpture Studio one encounters the sculpture of the Jordanian artist Rajwa Ali which tells a tale of creative and original thoughts and suggestive meanings.

The exhibition by contemporary Arab artists in the Blue House reflects the diversity of techniques and styles, the artistic research of philosophy and also the various cultural backgrounds of the participant artists.

This collective exhibition hopes to achieve a blend of various artistic experiences with all their diverse intellectual orientations and plastic art philosophies.

Mr Nassrallah points out that "this permanent exhibition is renewed every six months enabling the public to witness the developments in the Arab art movement."

The art of children, seems simple but always carries deep expression and has even few surprises. Many international artists seek

to initiate the drawings of children.

In the Byzantine Church, there is a number of marvelous drawings by some Jordanian children of both sexes between the ages of 6 and 15 years.

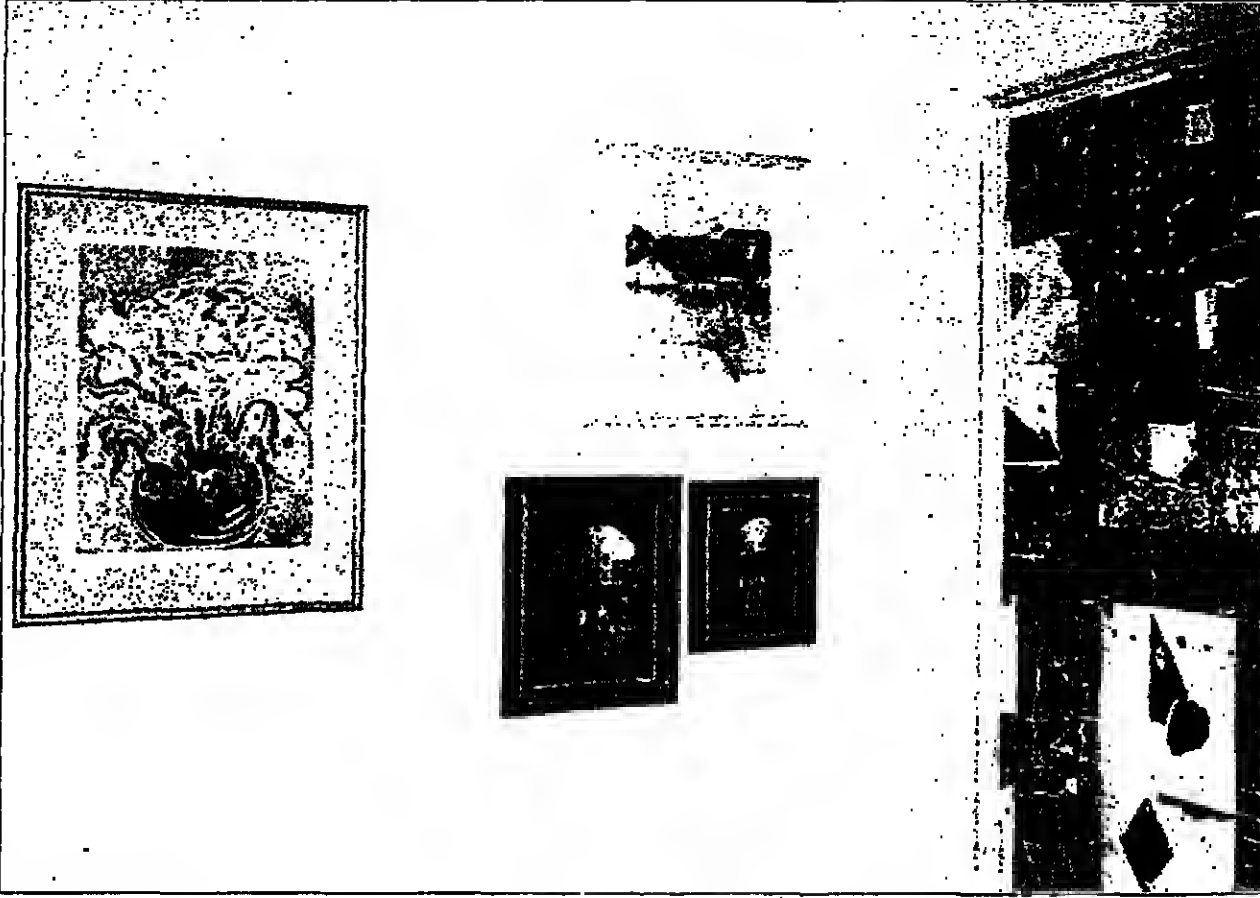
The children who all live in areas affected by environmental pollution, reflect on this serious problem.

Dr Ibrahim Abu Al Rub, the supervisor of this new project "Our children and the environment" remarks, "the experiment reflects an enormous potential for artistic creativity and a high sensitivity towards environment and milieu preservations."

There is also a whole range of cultural activities. Artists and art critics give lectures on topics like "Contemporary Arab art and its particularity" and "An evaluation of the critical public analysis."

Musical performances together with plays like "The Circle". "Um Al Rubahika" can be enjoyed in the courtyard of the Byzantine Church. Also there is a collection of films, about artists like Isamu Noguchi, and Chilla.

The festival, which runs until 10 October is a summation of diverse cultural and artistic activities, why not explore the many inspiring performances of art, the longer you wait, the more you miss. ■



Contemporary Arab artists at the festival



Music to rattle your taste buds

By Koffi Attah
Special to The Star

Since her arrival in Jordan some years ago, Russian Pianist Oksana Musteh has brought Russian musical heritage into the hearts and minds of many Jordanian concert-goers.

In a totally "Jordan and all Russia," piano recital that took place at the Royal Cultural Center last week, she won the hearts of her audience.

"The Russian Evening" which was under the patronage of Her Royal Highness Princess Faisal and Princess Alia Al Faisal, was organized by Freddy for Music.

Oksana is a bewitching performer who fingers the keyboard like a painter, lending original nuance to S. Rachmaninoff's Prelude in G minor Op. 23 No. 5. Her phantasmagoric musical gestures were authoritatively paced within a well-structured time frame to enable the audience ample time to appreciate the music.

The most captivating thing in the concert is the change of tempo and rhythms within the recital she performs. A piece opens with a hauntingly placid melody and suddenly changes into a pitching vibration that does not leave the listener any choice than to applaud.

Among the pieces she performs is M. Glinka's "The Russian Evening" which was under the patronage of Her Royal Highness Princess Faisal and Princess Alia Al Faisal, was organized by Freddy for Music.

Oksana is a bewitching performer who fingers the keyboard like a painter, lending original nuance to S. Rachmaninoff's Prelude in G minor Op. 23 No. 5. Her phantasmagoric musical gestures were authoritatively paced within a well-structured time frame to enable the audience ample time to appreciate the music.

Oksana is no longer resident in Perm, Russia where she was born. She is now married and resides in Jordan. Having taking up a teaching post at Freddy for Music where she teaches

Piano and assesses music students for the International Trinity College of Music examinations of London.

She holds a Master degree in Piano from Donetsk State Conservatory. A degree she obtained in 1995 under the supervision of Alice Georgians.

The concert is one of the several recitals performed as a soloist or accompanied by other instruments, and other famous composers such as Agnes Bashir.

The best way to experience this maestro is in a live concert because the feeling is that each piece has notable artistic integrity. Oksana provides a tantalizing musical experience that would appeal to any palate.

It is music of all generations and now anchored in the contemporary age. It is the music of Russia on the verge of the new millennium, a society under going many changes, which feeds on its past and transcends it to create an exciting future. This is the music you would expect to hear on a hot summer evening.



Cyprus Airways offers 5000 free tickets



CELEBRATING THE 50th anniversary of Cyprus Airways, 5000 tickets, free of charge, will be distributed to all those travelling on the airline all over the world.

Mr Awad Mada'in, the regional manager of Cyprus Airways in Jordan and Palestine said we have started the offer early this month and it will

go on until the end of December. He added that we will be drawing lots on each trip using the passengers seat numbers. The winner will get a free ticket on the same route he is travelling on. However, they will also be able to exchange their tickets and travel on other airlines at a discount of 50%.

Cyprus Airways fly to 31 regular destinations in Europe, the Middle East, and the Gulf, serving 24 European stations from Amsterdam to Athens and from Moscow to Manchester, in addition to Berlin, Birmingham, Brussels, Frankfurt, London, Paris and other European cities.

Mr Mada'in said that the airline has set out a program of regular trips. Journeys that connect the Middle East with Europe through Larnaka can save passengers' time, added Mr Mada'in. The schedule includes nine stations in Middle East, like Jordan, Bahrain, Al Riyadh, Dubai and Jeddah.

Mr Mada'in added that due to the increasing pressure on the Cyprus Airways we are looking forward to extending the number of our weekly trips to more than two, after our giant Airbus aeroplanes ranked eight among many international airlines by its excellent standards of services. ■

Orbit extends summer broadcasting

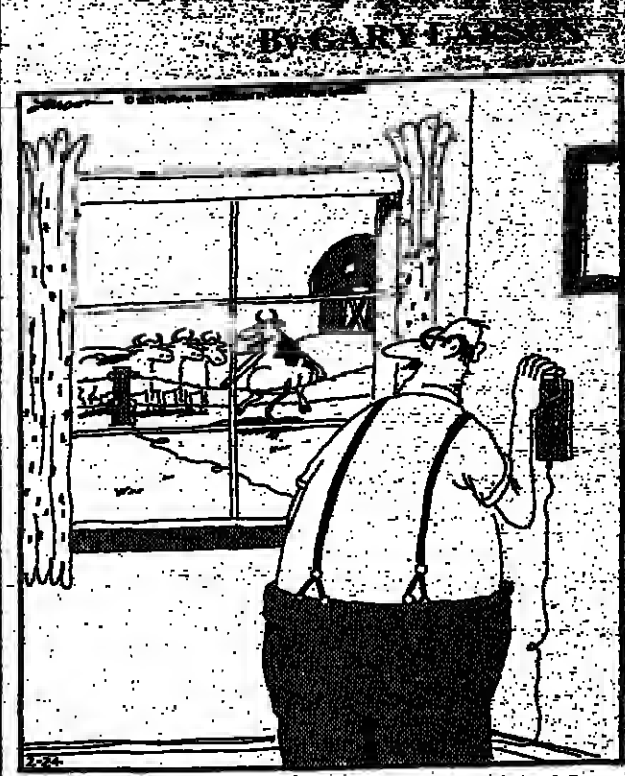
ORBIT, THE leading satellite pay-television broadcaster in the Arab world, announced that it will be extending its special summer promotion through September 30, 1997. The offer, which had originally been available July 1 through August 31, allows existing subscribers to order receivers through their local dealers at half price.

"The response has been simply overwhelming," commented the Orbit's Senior Vice President of Operations, Allan E. Garner. "We had anticipated pent-up demand for additional receivers, but sales have exceeded all expectations."

The first of its kind to be offered by Orbit, the promotion marks the network's commitment to its existing viewers, offering them the possibility to watch the Orbit service on more than one television set in their homes.

Since January of this year, the Orbit platform has expanded dramatically with the launch of Star Select, a 12 channel bouquet of services from STAR TV; The Disney Channel — Middle East; Orbit Express Shop; and, most recently, DMX Radio services. ■

THE FAR SIDE



Hummingbirds, of course, have to watch nature films with the action greatly speeded up.



AGENDA

- Exhibitions**
 - Exhibition of photographs about the life of Chilean poet Pablo Neruda at Instituto Cervantes, Jabal Amman until 23 September
 - Works by Darleen Wilkenson entitled "Arab Madinas in Batik" at the Jordan Crafts Development Centre (Al Aydi), Jabal Amman, Second Circle, until 25 September
 - Paintings exhibition entitled "La Radioactive" at the French Cultural Centre, until 30 September
 - Paintings by Palestinian artists entitled "Palestine the Reality and the Dream" at the
- Jordan National Gallery of Fine Arts, until 2 October**
- Bani Hamida exhibition** (rugs, cushions, runners, wall hangings and baskets) at Al Baladar Hall of Kan Zaman, until 20 September.

- 2:00—Holy Koran
- 2:30—Mopet Show
- 3:00—Blue Heelers
- 3:30—World of Ge
- 4:00—The Valley Be
- 4:30—Tilt
- 5:00—French Prog
- 5:30—News Headlin
- 7:35—Neighbors
- 8:00—Ties that Bin
- 8:30—Prism
- 9:10—Time Trav
- 9:40—News at Ten
- 10:30—Feature Film
- 10:50—Feature Film

- 2:00—Holy Koran
- 2:30—The Magic S
- 3:00—Energy Expre
- 3:30—Lucy's Luk
- 4:00—American (t
- 4:30—French Prog
- 5:00—News in Fren
- 5:30—News Headlin
- 7:35—Fresh Prince
- 8:00—Cinema, C
- 8:30—National Ge
- 9:10—Renegade
- 10:00—News at Ten
- 10:30—One West W
- 11:15—Sisters

- 2:00—Holy Koran
- 2:30—The Show W
- 3:00—Cubans Of Th
- 3:30—Gillette Spo
- 4:00—Animal Show
- 4:30—Ocean Girl
- 5:00—French Prog
- 5:30—News Headlin
- 7:30—News Headlin
- 7:35—Neighbors
- 8:00—Murphy Brow

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The Star's TV GUIDE

Programs on JTV from 20-27 September

ENGLISH PROGRAMS

SATURDAY
2:00—Holy Koran
2:30—Muppet Show
3:00—Blue Heelers
3:30—World of Geo
4:00—The Vally Between
4:30—Tilt
5:00—French Programs
5:30—News Headlines
7:35—Neighbors
8:00—Ties that Bind
8:30—Prison
9:10—Time Trax
10:00—News at Ten
10:30—Feature Film

SUNDAY
2:00—Holy Koran
2:30—The Magic School Bus
3:00—Energy Express
3:40—Lucky Lutz
4:00—American Chart Show
6:00—French Programs
7:00—News in French
7:30—News Headlines
7:35—Fresh Prince of Bel Air
8:00—Cinema, Cinema, Cinema
8:30—National Geographic
9:10—Renegade
10:00—News at Ten
10:30—One West Waikiki
11:15—Sisters

MONDAY
2:00—Holy Koran
2:10—The Show With The Mouse
2:30—Cowboy Of The Mos Mesa
3:00—Gillette Sports Special
3:30—Deep Water Have
4:00—Animal Show
4:30—Ocean Girl
5:15—French Programs
7:30—News Headlines
7:35—Neighbors
8:00—Murphy Brown



Cinema, Cinema, Cinema, Sunday at 8:00 pm

8:30—Babylon 5
9:10—Highlander
10:00—News at Ten
10:30—Emergency Room(er)
11:15—Homicide

TUESDAY
2:00—Holy Koran
2:10—Sandocan
2:30—C.R.O.
3:00—Square One T.V.
3:30—Skipper
4:30—The Album Show
5:15—French Programs
7:00—News in French
7:30—News Headlines
7:35—Coach
8:00—Tilt
8:30—Encounter
9:10—Nature of Things
10:00—News at Ten
10:30—Great Defender

11:15—I Remember Nelson

WEDNESDAY
2:00—Holy Koran
2:10—Jonny Quest
2:30—Super Daue
3:00—Secrets of Treasure Island
3:30—Spell Binder
4:00—Monsters Today
4:30—Border Town
6:00—French Programs
7:00—News in French
7:30—News Headlines
7:35—Neighbors
8:00—Soldier's Diary
8:30—Oprah Winfrey Show
9:10—Spencer for Hire
10:00—News at Ten
10:25—Land's End
11:00—American Gothic



Amman cinemas

- Philadelphia I (Tel: 634149):
The Saint
- Philadelphia II (Tel: 634149):
Fear
- Plaza (Tel: 699238):
Guilty As Sin
- Concord I (Tel: 677420):
A Time to Kill
- Concord II (Tel: 677420):
My Best Friend Wedding

THURSDAY

2:00—Holy Koran
2:10—Ovide and The Gang
2:30—The New Fred and Barney
3:00—America's Funniest People
3:30—He Shoot He Scores
4:30—Shingalana
5:00—French Programs
7:00—News in French
7:30—News Headlines
7:35—Trivial Pursuit
8:00—Parenthood
8:30—Lois and Clark (Superman)
9:10—Kung Fu
10:00—News at Ten
10:30—Feature Film
12:00—Step By Step

FRIDAY

2:00—Holy Koran
2:05—Elistones
2:30—Leo The Lion
3:00—French Programs
4:00—Family Matters
4:30—NBA
6:10—French Film
7:00—News in French
7:30—News Headlines
7:35—Neighbors
8:00—The Health Show
8:30—Adventures of Brisco County
9:10—Drama Series
10:00—News at Ten
10:30—Best Seller
11:15—Daddy's Girls

PROGRAMMES EN FRANÇAIS

SAMEDI
5:00—Secrets de famille
5:30—Des chiffres et des lettres
6:00—Le siècle de Samislavsk
7:00—Le Journal
7:15—Magazine L'auf de Colomb

DIMANCHE

5:00—Secrets de famille
5:30—Des chiffres et des lettres
6:00—Magazine
7:00—Le Journal
7:15—Magazine pour tous Ziva

LUNDI

5:00—Secrets de famille
5:30—Des chiffres et des lettres
6:00—Thalassa
7:00—Le Journal
7:15—Magazine scientifique Cinq sur cinq

MARDI

5:00—Secrets de famille
5:30—Des chiffres et des lettres
6:00—Surprise sur prise
7:00—Le Journal
7:15—Orient sur Seine

MERCREDI

5:00—Secrets de famille
5:30—Des chiffres et des lettres
6:00—Ushuaia
7:00—Le Journal
7:15—Ziva

JEUDI

5:00—La France aux mille visages
5:30—Casino de Paris
7:00—Le Journal
7:15—Le dessous des cartes

VENREDI

5:00—Divertissement L'école des fans
5:30—Quai numéro 1 - 5/5
7:00—Le Journal
7:15—Magazine Allo la terre

Programs are subject to change by JTV

Movies & Videos

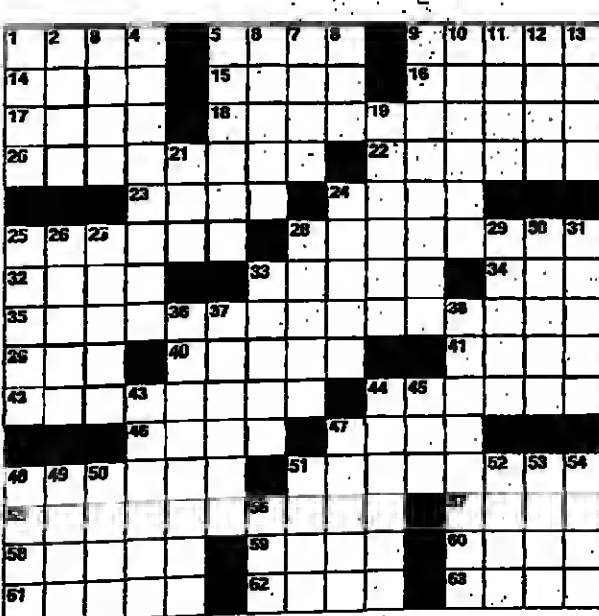


Addicted to Love

Sam (Matthew Broderick), an astronomer from a small town in the Midwest, is a naive romantic. Maggie (Meg Ryan), a photographer and collage artist from New York, is a world-wise cynic. Stranger and polar opposites, what they have in common is an obsession with the respective lovers who've just jilted them and are now sharing a romantic apartment in Soho.



CROSSWORD PUZZLE



- ACROSS**
1 Volcanic output
5 Long
9 At right angles to the level
14 Trip
15 Spill the beans
16 Currency unit in Brussels
17 US author
18 Word difficult to pronounce
20 Exposure (TV series)
22 Playful animals
23 Channel
24 Actor Caryn
25 Fragrance in lady's closet
28 Fabric
32 Regarding
33 Refugee
34 Letters on a
- DOWN**
1 Lateral
2 Trademark
3 Satcha or Leopold
4 Stage star
5 Wretched
6 Certain cigar
7 Galle of movies
8 Wane
9 Support in wrongdoing
10 Kitchen utensil
11 Across
12 Ripening factor
13 Red planet
14 and 55
15 Work the fields
16 Rich people
17 Tough bar
18 North Sea feeder
19 Utters loudly
20 Like a lion
21 Former Israeli P.M.
22 Cut
23 Jacob's son
24 North Sea feeder
25 Cable TV letters
26 Former Israeli P.M.
27 Cut
28 Jacob's son
29 North Sea feeder
30 Cable TV letters
31 Former Israeli P.M.
32 Cut
33 Jacob's son
34 North Sea feeder
35 Cable TV letters
36 Former Israeli P.M.
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91 Former Israeli P.M.
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93 Jacob's son
94 North Sea feeder
95 Cable TV letters
96 Former Israeli P.M.
97 Cut
98 Jacob's son
99 North Sea feeder
100 Cable TV letters

—THIS WEEK'S— HOROSCOPE

By Linda Black

Weekly Tip: Be prepared to act quickly as changes occur. Check to make sure your partner is following through. Focus on details and you'll do fine. That's assuming, of course, you've done the work.

Aries (March 21-April 19). There's plenty to be done — don't take on new projects. You're in a wildly creative mood. You could even find a job you love that pays well.

Taurus (April 20-Sept. 20). Somebody's got a problem you can help fix. An overdue assignment presses down on you. Stop resisting — just do it!

Gemini (Sept. 21-June 21). You've got authority figures to deal with. Don't argue — you'll just make the whole thing take longer.

Cancer (June 22-July 22). Your supervisor has no time for your problems, so keep them to yourself. Your friends come to your rescue.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22). Ask for money in a nice way and you could get it. Travel and foreign languages are in the spotlight. An older person from a different country can teach you a lot.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Make sure your partner understands what you want. An older person wants to call the shots, but you notice an error. Speak up, or a big mistake could happen.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Work hard. Don't argue with a supervisor's ridiculous demands, just do it. Your partner is kind of confrontational. To avoid a fight, just listen.

Scorpio (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Pay attention to business. You can resolve a partnership matter by reaching a compromise with a stubborn person.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Stay close to home. Somebody there needs your good advice. Romance beckons. It's with a very athletic person.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Work hard. You could have a breakthrough in a difficult area. Stay close to home. Something there will need fixing.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Don't spend everything you've got in one place. It has to last a long time. Concentrate. You'll have the enthusiasm to do a really tough assignment well.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20). The moon's in your sign, so make sure others know what you want. Speak right up. That gets easier soon.

If You're Having a Birthday This Week: Form a good partnership this year and take a great leap forward. Share expenses and you'll both succeed.

Bridge

Control Yourself!
By Omar Sharif and Tannah Hirsch

Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
AK43
876
J109
8553

WEST
952
K542
AK32
J9

EAST
1087
Q3
Q654
Q10642

SOUTH
QJ5
AQJ109
87
AK7

The bidding:
South West North East
1♥ Pass 2♥ Pass
2♠ Pass 3♠ Pass
4♥ Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: King of ♣

C might be only an average mark at school, but it is a key letter in declarer play. It stands for count and control, two key elements that declarer needs to fulfill any contract.

North's raise to two hearts is eminently correct. Should North elect to bid one spade instead, there would be all sorts of problems no matter what

rebid South made, except a spade raise. South was a bit short of a jump to game, so bid a suit in which help was needed. North's raise showed at least four spades and three hearts, and the heart game was reached in short order.

West cashed the king and ace of diamonds and continued with a third round, ruffed in the closed hand. How should South proceed?

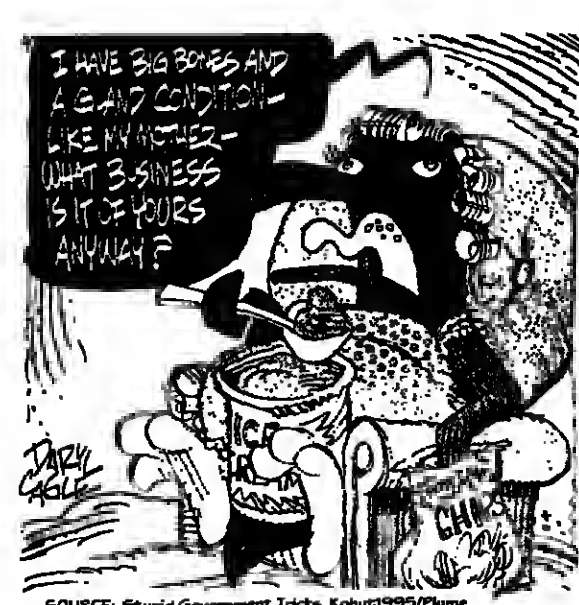
Outside of trumps, declarer can count six fast tricks, so only four trump tricks are needed. Therefore, declarer can afford to lose a trick to the king of trumps. However, to keep control, declarer must protect against the possibility of a 4-1 split.

If declarer plays the ace of hearts followed by the queen. West holds up. Since the fourth spade cannot be cashed before extracting trumps, South must lead another trump. West wins and reverts to diamonds, forcing declarer to ruff, and West's long trump becomes the setting trick.

The winning line is for declarer to lead the queen of hearts from hand, and follow with the jack if West holds up. If West wins, dummy's trump guards against a diamond continuation. If West holds off a second time, declarer cashes the ace of hearts and starts on spades. West can ruff the fourth spade as declarer discards the club loser, but that is the third and last trick for the defense.

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TRUE! By Daryl Cagle



The government funded a 1994 study to determine why penguins have gotten fat.

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Jumble

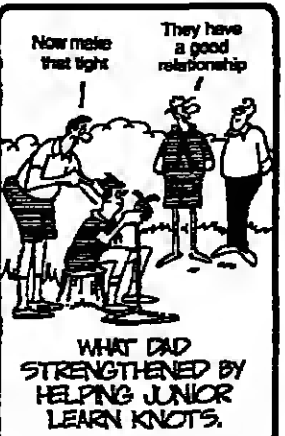
Unscramble these four words, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

LAMBY

DYRIT

KATEIN

TANSEF



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoons.

Answer here: _____

Answers: LAMBY: BALMY DIRTY INTAKE PASTEN
DYRIT: DIRTY INTAKE PASTEN
KATEIN: DIRTY INTAKE PASTEN
TANSEF: DIRTY INTAKE PASTEN

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Would You Believe...

The Vikings settled on Iceland in the 9th century.

The 1770s marked the beginning of the Age of Revolution.

Most of the Wabash River is found in Indiana.

The Kingdom of Aragon is now part of modern-day Spain.

It is only 350 miles from Los Angeles to San Francisco.

In 1941, British prime minister Winston Churchill launched his "V for Victory" campaign.

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Le Jourdain

Supplément en français du Star

Interview

«La corde ne doit pas lâcher»

Bassam Oumouche, député islamique sortant, compare ainsi les relations entre son mouvement et le pouvoir, à un jeu de force. Les Frères Musulmans et le Front d'Action islamique veulent boycotter les prochaines élections législatives. Mais face à un gouvernement, sourd à toutes leurs revendications, ils risquent de se retrouver sans aucun représentant dans la nouvelle chambre. Bassam Oumouche, ce professeur d'université à la voix sombre et posée, est l'un des deux seuls à refuser encore ce boycott, qu'il juge néfaste pour l'avenir du mouvement islamique.



Le Jourdain : Pourquoi avez-vous décidé de démissionner du Front d'Action islamique (FAI) ?

Bassam Oumouche : En fait, j'ai démissionné de son bureau exécutif et non pas du parti lui-même. Je reste encore un membre du FAI. Mais je ne peux pas soutenir la décision de boycott prise par le parti.

J'appartiens aussi à un mouvement islamique (les Frères Musulmans) qui, je crois, est réformiste. Tout au long des 50 dernières années, ce mouvement a toujours suivi la voie de la réforme. Et le fait d'avoir des représentants dans de multiples institutions et organes tels que le Parlement, les écoles, les universités ou la presse, nous aide à suivre cette voie. Or, dans cette ligne réformatrice, le boycott sonne faux.

L. J. : N'avez-vous pas l'intention, avec ceux qui vous soutiennent, de créer un nouveau parti islamique ?

B. O. : Non, nous restons membres du FAI et des Frères Musulmans. Le règlement interne du mouvement des Frères Musulmans ne permet pas à ses membres d'appartenir à un parti politique, à l'exception du FAI.

Ceux qui veulent établir un nouveau parti doivent donc d'abord quitter les Frères Musulmans.

L. J. : C'est ce que vous comptez faire ?

B. O. : Non, rien de tel n'est prévu. De toute façon, si c'était le cas, cela se saurait !

L. J. : Si vous pensez que le mouvement islamique ne prend pas la bonne direction, pourquoi ne pas créer un nouveau parti, un nouveau mouvement ?

B. O. : Le mouvement islamique est resté uni en Jordanie depuis 50 ans. Construire un nouveau parti est donc une décision difficile à prendre. Notre objectif principal est de rester unis. Si certains trouvent que la route suivie par le parti mène à une impasse, ils pourront engager la construction d'une nouvelle formation. Mais il est encore trop tôt. Choisir dès maintenant une autre voie, c'est prendre le risque de se sentir

frustré, sentir que les changements ne sont pas encore possibles. Je crois simplement que le boycott ne ressemble qu'à ces petits nuages de l'été qui disparaissent très vite.

L. J. : Est-ce que vous serez candidat aux élections du 4 novembre prochain ?

B. O. : Dès le début, j'ai annoncé que je ne me présenterai pas.

L. J. : D'un côté, vous vous opposez au boycott, de l'autre, vous ne participez pas aux élections. Est-ce que ce n'est pas contradictoire ?

B. O. : J'ai décidé de ne pas me présenter pour des raisons personnelles mais je reste persuadé que le FAI et les Frères Musulmans doivent participer au scrutin. Personnellement, en tant que professeur d'université et diplômé d'un doctorat, j'ai l'obligation de présenter les résultats de mes travaux de recherches en sciences. Ce que je n'ai pu faire, le temps des quatre années que je viens de passer au parlement. A présent, je dois achever mes travaux de recherche.

«Le boycott, c'est comme ces petits nuages de l'été qui disparaissent très vite»

B. O. : Certains Frères pensaient qu'en décidant le boycott avec de fortes revendications à l'appui (révision de la loi électorale «une personne une voix», de la loi sur la presse et les publications, arrêt de la normalisation avec Israël, du

Une école «anti-Hezbollah» pour les soldats israéliens

L'armée israélienne a créé une école d'entraînement à la guérilla pour former des militaires à la lutte contre le Hezbollah au Liban. Selon le quotidien Yediot Aharonot, cette école, dirigée par un colonel, a été fondée secrètement il y a plusieurs mois, à la suite de l'accroissement des pertes parmi les soldats israéliens. Elle a déjà formé plusieurs unités en poste au Liban sud. L'entraînement, théorique et pratique, dure trois semaines. Les militaires s'initient aux nouvelles méthodes de combat contre la milice chiite. Pour cela, les soldats disposent d'un vaste terrain d'entraînement reproduisant la configuration topographique du Liban sud. «Nous devons nous adapter au Hezbollah, une des meilleures organisations de guérilla au monde», a souligné le chef de l'école. L'armée israélienne dispose aussi d'une unité spéciale de lutte anti-guérilla surnommée «Egoz» (naix, en hébreu) dont les méthodes de combat imitent celles du Hezbollah. Depuis le début de l'année, 33 militaires israéliens ont été tués au Liban, ce qui fait d'ores et déjà de 1997, l'année la plus meurtrière pour l'armée depuis la guerre de 1982-85.

programme de restructuration économique en collaboration avec la Banque Mondiale...NDLR), ils obligeraient le gouvernement à faire des compromis. Ils pensaient également que le gouvernement serait embarrassé par cette décision. Il est apparu au contraire que c'est ce qu'il espérait. En fait, il n'y a pas eu de dialogue entre les Frères Musulmans et le gouvernement. Si celui-ci s'était vraiment inquiété de la participation des islamistes, il aurait répondu à quelques-unes de nos demandes. Or, quand il a été fortement question de dialogue, le Premier ministre était à l'étranger. Le gouvernement n'a jamais pris au sérieux l'idée d'un dialogue. Les conditions de leur participation invoquées par les musulmans sont trop larges pour être réalisées en deux ou trois mois. Ces revendications devaient être discutées pendant la dernière législature.

Le mouvement islamique vit une crise, comme le gouvernement d'ailleurs. Les dirigeants au pouvoir prétendent le contraire. En réalité, l'image du gouvernement dans les médias internationaux est en train de se dégrader parce que toutes les tendances politiques du pays ne vont pas participer aux élections. Ces dernières années, le gouvernement avait l'habitude de mettre en avant la Jordanie comme modèle de pluralisme. Mais depuis quelques temps, ce modèle n'existe plus. Le précédent parlement était très critiqué. Le prochain fait déjà l'objet de plaisanteries diverses sur sa future composition.

«Le prochain parlement fait déjà l'objet de plaisanteries»

L. J. : Quelles seront les conséquences du boycott pour le mouvement islamique ?

B. O. : Dans l'ancienne chambre, notre mouvement avait 17 députés. Dans celle qui va être élue, il n'y en aura aucun. C'est pour nous une tribune libre en moins et une lourde perte politique. Notre relation avec les événements du royaume était renforcée par notre présence au parlement. La voix du mouvement risque donc d'être moins entendue qu'avant.

Nous craignons aussi que les relations entre les islamistes et le régime se crispent de plus en plus. Il est possible que ceux qui détestent le mouvement islamique profitent de son boycott pour exiger son élimination.

L. J. : Pensez-vous qu'il est possible de réduire ces effets négatifs ?

B. O. : Le mouvement islamique a derrière lui une expérience de 50 années d'accords et de désaccords avec le régime même si la plupart du temps nous étions en phase avec celui-ci. Pendant les quelques périodes d'opposition, c'était un peu comme le tir à la corde. Chacun tirait de son côté mais le point de rupture n'a jamais été atteint. J'espère que cette fois encore que la corde ne lâchera pas. J'espère que le gouvernement, dans les mois à venir, écouterait la voix des islamistes, bien qu'ils ne soient pas au parlement, comme il a su les écouter pendant les 50 dernières années.

Propos recueillis par Yannick Lainé

C'est la vie

L'agenda français d'Amman

Cinéma

Cycle consacré à l'acteur Michel Piccoli. *Milou en mai*, de Louis Malle (1990). Pendant les événements de mai 1968, Milou réunit toute la famille pour l'enterrement de la mère. Lundi 22 septembre à 20h30 au Centre culturel français. Tél. : 637009/636445/612658.

Exposition

Vingt panneaux et une projection vidéo sur la radioactivité, pour tout savoir sur le phénomène découvert par Pierre et Marie Curie. Au CCF, jusqu'au 30 septembre.

Musique

Le jazz d'orfèvre de Laurent de Wilde

Samedi dernier, les amateurs de jazz d'Amman ont goûté au vrai bonheur de la musique «savante et spontanée» du trio conduit par le pianiste Laurent de Wilde. Une leçon de jazz donnée en toute décontraction.

Le piano

(de Laurent de Wilde), la contrebasse (d'Ira Colman) et la batterie (de Dion Parson) ont tout simplement électrisé le public jordanien, qui s'est aussitôt laissé porter par la rythmique colorée de leurs improvisations parfaitement synchronisées. «Le point commun entre le jazz et la musique arabe réside sans doute dans les percussions», précise Laurent de Wilde, convaincu que le rythme permet l'échange avec n'importe quel public. Fût-il avisé ou profane en matière de jazz, et sous n'importe quelle latitude. «Ces instruments sont comme les trois pieds d'un tabouret, à partir duquel on peut tout faire, métaphorise Laurent de Wilde, si dans les années 50, par exemple, les rôles respectifs des cordes et des instruments de percussion étaient strictement séparés, aujourd'hui ce qui nous intéresse, c'est de voir comment un instrument peut émettre sur le territoire des autres». Ainsi la contrebasse parvient à donner les «pulsations fondamentales» de la musique, et la batterie de son côté, «dessine à l'encre de Chine tous les foisonnements rythmiques». Le maître conclut sa leçon : «Comme combinaison des marteaux et des cordes, le piano fait le lien en-

tre la contrebasse et la batterie, en facilitant les transferts d'harmonie et de rythme». Après des études complètes de philosophie en France, Laurent de Wilde se consacre au jazz, qui le fascine depuis l'âge de 13 ans. Aujourd'hui, à 36 ans, sa philosophie, c'est la musique qu'il joue avec passion et lucidité. A ses yeux, elle est «une science des sons et des découpages rythmiques» qui peut même acquiescer une dimension transcendante. Comment ? La recette est simple et terriblement exigeante : «Des relations personnelles très profondes sur scène entre les musiciens ne peuvent que bénéficier à la musique». Le pianiste a les yeux qui pétillent et le visage encore radieux de la joie vécue sur scène et partagée avec ses deux autres compères, dans un triangle de regards complices.

Contrepédale rythmique

Assis au piano, tout de noir vêtu, Laurent de Wilde vit la musique et la fait vivre à son public. Tempo et frémissements de pieds sur le sol quand il joue du «crazy» Charly Parker, il ferme les yeux et hausse les épaules avec «feeling» en rendant hommage par des cadences arabes à Duke Ellington. Puis il pince les cordes de son

piano pour obtenir des sonorités déformées, et mystiques quand il interprète un *Toten*, dédié à son grand-père. Bricolant il se livre à la fin d'une phrase musicale «décadente», se rassoit et reprend sur un rythme reggae. Enfin, il manie le clavier avec une agilité pour lui-même sur une improvisation du standard *I'm through with love*, devenant célèbre avec le dernier film de Woody Allen.

Simultanément, la contrebasse de «son ami de toujours», Ira Colman, devient tour à tour grave ou nerveuse, alors que la batterie de Dion Parson, originaire des Caraïbes, revêt des tons à la fois magiques et énergiques, comme dans ce solo virtuose de dix minutes : une *Contrepédale rythmique* selon l'expression de Laurent de Wilde et le final d'un spectacle inoubliable.

Après le festival de jazz euro-arabe en Syrie, au Liban et en Jordanie (grâce au Centre culturel français), le trio va poursuivre ses tournées à Paris, New York, Washington et au Japon. Laurent de Wilde espère déjà revenir dans «la région», qu'il découvre pour la première fois. Après une soirée musicale de cette rare qualité, qui s'en plaindrait ?

Anca de Malo



«A la contrebasse, les pulsations fondamentales, à la batterie, les foisonnements rythmiques». Laurent de Wilde, pianiste de son trio de jazz.

Nouvelles du Pays

Société

Libres d'aimer... avec accord parental

Sous le poids des traditions, les fiançailles en Jordanie deviennent une opération hasardeuse, pas toujours facile à vivre pour les futurs époux. Récits plus ou moins heureux d'amours, en équilibre entre désirs et famille.

Samah est une jeune étudiante, qui à 22 ans, a connu bien des déboires dans sa vie sentimentale. La cause de tous ses malheurs : l'absence de liberté pour choisir son fiancé. Par deux fois, elle a eu la bague au doigt, par deux fois, ses fiançailles se sont terminées par

un douloureux échec. «La première fois, c'était avec un de mes parents qui vit en Amérique. J'avais 19 ans et j'étais en train de passer mon bac, se souvient-elle tristement, il est venu pendant dix jours à la maison où nous vivons, une belle fête puis il est reparti en

voyage d'affaires». Dix jours, c'est un peu court pour apprécier quelqu'un. Alors les parents de Samah la rassurent en lui disant de téléphoner souvent à son fiancé pour apprendre à mieux le connaître. «J'ai surtout découvert qu'il ne me convenait pas», ironise la jeune

femme. Le contrat de mariage signé au moment des fiançailles est rompu. Sur l'acte de divorce qui est prononcé, il est précisé que le mariage n'a pas été consommé (divorce avant la *dokha*), ce qui permet à la jeune femme de retrouver chaussure à son pied plus facilement.

Selon les chiffres du département jordanien des statistiques, il y a eu plus de 6300 divorces prononcés en 1995, soit environ 18% des contrats de mariage. Une tendance plutôt à la hausse depuis le début des années 90. Mais le chiffre le plus intéressant concerne la durée du mariage avant la rupture. Près de 60% des divorces sont décidés avant deux ans de contrat marital effectif.

Bonheur volé

Un an après sa première déconvenue, un autre prétendant vient demander la main de Samah. Il a de l'argent, un travail, est issu d'une bonne famille : «Que demander de plus ?», se disent les parents de la promise, qui se rend à l'évidence. Les deux tourtereaux commencent à faire des projets, à acheter des meubles pour leur future maison. Mais un jour, alors qu'elle se rend chez sa belle-mère, elle trouve son fiancé, malade comme un chien et soudain complètement paralysé. La belle-famille avait



Le jour de son mariage, la jeune Jordanienne porte traditionnellement une robe blanche comme en France.

oublié de préciser que le prétendant était atteint d'une épilepsie aiguë depuis son enfance. Devant tant d'hypocrisie, Samah préfère à nouveau rompre ses fiançailles : «On m'a volé mon bonheur», s'écrie-elle en repensant à toutes ses expériences malheureuses.

A l'inverse, Iman et Ibrahim sont deux futurs époux qui estiment avoir eu de la chance. «Cela a été un coup de foudre tout de suite», assure Ibrahim, je suis son cousin et j'allais la voir chez ses parents au moins une fois par semaine mais j'ai

préféré ne pas me laisser aller à la passion. Ce n'est qu'au bout de deux ans que je lui ai déclaré mon amour». Le jeune homme devra encore attendre deux ans avant que ses propres parents n'aillent officiellement demander la main d'Iman. Quatre ans, cela paraît long mais Ibrahim ne regrette pas d'avoir été patient car il connaît bien la femme avec laquelle il a décidé de s'engager et selon lui éviter de mauvaises surprises.

Iman, elle, est heureuse. La jeune fille vit un amour sans

Le mariage n'est plus ce qu'il était

Si en France le mariage reste une institution, il a depuis longtemps pris un coup dans l'âme. Environ un mariage sur trois se termine par un divorce, un sur deux en région parisienne. Alors bien sûr, surtout parmi les jeunes, on préfère ne pas tenter l'aventure du mariage. Les couples sont de plus en plus nombreux à ne pas passer devant le maire. Le concubinage devient ainsi une sorte de «mariage à l'essai» ou carrément un nouveau type de vie à deux. En 1990, il y avait plus d'1,2 millions de couples mariés vivant ensemble, soit 9 fois plus qu'en 1960.

Par ailleurs, avec l'augmentation des divorces, une nouvelle structure familiale est née : la famille recomposée. C'est-à-dire un couple qui vit avec des enfants nés d'une union précédente. Jacqueline et Gérard se sont mariés et ils ont eu deux enfants. Après dix ans de vie commune, ils décident de divorcer. Jacqueline obtient la garde des enfants et se remarie quelques temps plus tard avec Roger qui de son côté, voit également les trois enfants qu'il a eus d'un premier mariage. Ainsi pour les vacances d'été, ils se retrouvent à 7 sur les plages de la Côte d'Azur. Roger et ses trois bambins qu'il a récupérés le temps des congés et Jacqueline avec ses deux enfants. Pendant ce temps, Gérard a lui aussi refait sa vie.

Bref, ces familles en «bits» se multiplient : plus d'un million aujourd'hui. Au total, 20% des familles ne correspondent plus au schéma traditionnel du couple qui élève ses enfants et seulement ses enfants. Un foyer sur cinq.

Le Jourdain

excess tel qu'elle l'avait imaginé et surtout tel qu'elle l'a choisi : «Je suis pour un amour qui n'entre pas la religion et les traditions mais je refuse que quelqu'un intervienne entre mon fiancé et moi-même», précise-elle, et puis mon père me fait confiance et me traite en adulte». Ibrahim et Iman ont se mariés dans un an. Ils pensent déjà aux préparatifs de la fête et à équiper leur maison. Raghad Youssef est fiancée depuis plus de neuf mois déjà. Tout se passe bien ou presque : «Je dis presque à cause de la pression de mes parents. D'après la religion, c'est comme si c'était mon mari,

Mais d'après mon père, mon fiancé n'est encore qu'un étranger. Je ne peux pas le voir, lui parler, sortir avec lui sans la présence d'une tierce personne, sans un gardien pour nous surveiller». Et Raghad de s'interroger : «D'un côté, mes parents me disent que je suis en âge d'élever des enfants, de fonder un foyer et de l'autre, le gardien que ma famille m'impose me suit partout, soldant pour me protéger de mon futur mari, comme si j'étais encore une enfant. Est-ce que c'est logique ?»

Bayan Salman

Fiançailles : un permis d'amour ?

Le contrat de mariage est aujourd'hui généralement signé au moment des fiançailles. C'est une garantie que le mariage va bien avoir lieu et aussi une sorte de «permis d'amour». Un cheikh vient lire la fatiha (sout du Coran) puis plus tard le kitab (contrat) qui scelle le lien du mariage. Selon l'Islam, les deux promis peuvent alors se retrouver et se voir au grand jour. Leur liaison est tout ce qu'il y a de plus officiel. Simple, mais la virginité de la fiancée doit être respectée jusqu'à la nuit de noces. Entre la jeune fille et ses parents, c'est alors une question de confiance : savoir s'il faut la laisser sortir seule avec son fiancé ou accompagnée d'un chaperon ?

Après avoir une délégation de fiançailles vient demander la main de la belle et se met d'accord avec l'autre famille sur le montant de la dot. Ce montant varie en fonction du niveau social et de l'éducation de chaque partie. En moyenne, cela tourne autour de 3000 JD mais cela peut atteindre des sommets. Plus le fiancé accepte une dot au-dessus de ses moyens, plus il prouve son ardent désir de ne pas quitter sa julinée. Pendant la négociation,

une tasse de café amer est posée devant le chef de la délégation. Elle restera posée jusqu'à ce que l'entente soit conclue. En cas de désaccord, la tasse de café reste par terre et la délégation repart bredouille. Autrement, le chef de la délégation est invité à boire le breuvage, signe de la satisfaction des deux parties.

Les fiançailles, c'est aussi la fête chez les musulmans. Il y a bien sûr la remise de la bague que la fiancée porte à sa main droite. Parfois, le fiancé choisit ce moment plutôt que le jour du mariage pour habiller d'or la jeune fille (boucles d'oreilles, colliers, bracelets...). La fête est enfin l'occasion de danses dont «celle de la promesse», la *Rakset al-Orou*. Ces coutumes ne sont pas respectées totalement dans toutes les familles ni dans toutes les régions. Dans la Vallée du Jourdain et le sud de la Jordanie, les traditions ont été bien conservées contrairement aux grandes villes ou au nord du pays, où la plupart du temps la signature du contrat de mariage se fait prosaïquement devant un tribunal. ■ B.S.

كانا من أول حب

Pulling power of the paparazzi

By Tracy Corrigan

THE LAST in the makeshift montage of paparazzi pictures, set apart from the rest, is an image of an elegant couple in evening dress, snapped from behind. I didn't recognize the man (it turned out to be Ralph Lauren) but I knew the woman instantly: it was Princess Diana.

This is the only picture of her in an exhibition of paparazzi photographs which opened at the Robert Miller gallery in New York last Tuesday less than two weeks after her death in a car accident which the paparazzi may have caused, either directly or indirectly. The instant familiarity of the back of her head shows the power of the thousands of images of the "people's Princess" which have bombarded our senses for nearly 20 years, and made her the world's most famous woman. And perhaps it helps explain the highly personal grief of millions of people who had never met her, but nevertheless felt an intimate bond.

"At the end of the day, it's any man and any woman, going to dinner," admits Olivier Renaud-Clement, who spent nine months gathering the photos for the exhibition. "Unless it's supported by a legend and a story, it's nothing."

He is right, and that is why some of the photos on display there are polaroids, for example, of unidentified dogs and babies, which seemed to lie well beyond the boundaries of paparazzi territory fail to hold the interest.

The whole premise of paparazzi snaps is the titillation of famous faces, preferably to intimate moments. Braced for this guilty pleasure, the unknown, and even the semi-famous, cannot fail to disappoint. But obviously over- or under-exposed pictures are also irritating. This is an art gallery, after all, and people are being asked to pay good money for what in some cases look like failed holiday snaps.

Of course, as in most modern art, the issue of what constitutes art turns out to be the whole point of the exhibition. The first half deals with the work of the early Italian paparazzi, immortalized in Federico Fellini's film *La Dolce Vita*. Some of these shots are as tacky as they come, but somehow the stylizedness of 1950s Italy and the starkness of the monochrome help raise the tone, and the sight of those big, cumbersome cameras with the enormous flash bulbs is strangely nostalgic.

The second half of the exhibition, with photos dating from 1964 onwards, features the work of only one genuine paparazzo. The other photographers come from the fashion and art worlds. Bruce Weber being the best known.

These photos illustrate "the way the ideas and techniques of the paparazzi have transformed the field of photography," according to the gallery blurb. They certainly do. Everyone who is anyone photographs celebrities these days it seems, and the gap between the artificial and the candid, between art and tabloid photo-journalism, appears to have been eroded.

Some shots are obviously posed Brigitte Bardot lolling seductively for a bevy of snappers while in other shots, the camera's attention is clearly unwanted, since the subjects can be seen attacking the artists.

In others, the relationship between subject and photographer is more murky. A pouting Melanie Griffith, Meg Ryan hiding her face behind one hand in mock-coyness look. When celebrities are out at charity dinners, or even on dates in smart restaurants, are they still performing? Can they stop performing, even if they want to?

The case of Princess Diana is even more complex. The camera loved her, and often, it seems, she loved the camera. She could not have reached the near mythic status which caused millions to mourn her death without the constant snapping of the paparazzi. But the mourners who lined the roadside at her funeral and applauded her brother who he derided the paparazzi were the very tabloid readers who fuelled the ardour which may have killed her.

If glimpses of the private lives of the rich and famous are not yet considered art by the purists, they are already valuable collectors' items. In the first few hours of the exhibition, some snaps had already sold, the gallery said.

And last Monday's *Wall Street Journal* carried a classified advertisement for a scarlet silk and lace cocktail dress which once belonged to Princess Diana lot 35 of the recent Christie's auction in New York. The owner, who has apparently decided to cash in on her death, specifies that the dress has been on the cover of *People* magazine. Even her dresses are famous now.

Financial Times Syndication

Violence, a complicated film about modern life

By Kevin Thomas

HOLLYWOOD—By the time Wim Wenders' audacious and seductive "The End of Violence" is over, its title has changed meaning, signifying not the elimination of violence but its cumulative effect. As complex as it is beautiful, it has echoes of "1984" and "The Conversation" and offers a shrewdly observed panorama of contemporary L.A. in general and Hollywood in particular.

"The End of Violence" has a large and distinctive cast, low-key yet stunning cinematography by Pascal Rabaud, a lovely, languorous Ry Cooder score—one of the year's best—and the soundtrack boasts a clutch of wonderful newly commissioned work by such artists as Tom Waits, Los Lobos, a duet by U2 and Sinéad O'Connor, and a duet by Michael Stipe and Vic Chesnutt.

"The End of Violence" may be an impressive and even satisfying achievement for Wenders aficionados, but it is also extraordinarily demanding for a major studio release. In its complicated plot, it is a thriller. But it is first and foremost a moody, contemplative European-style art film by a master of the New German Cinema movement who has always been fascinated by American pop culture. Best known today for his surreal "Wings of Desire" and its sequel, "Faraway, So Close!," Wenders has already made two memorable American films, "Hammett" and "Paris, Texas."

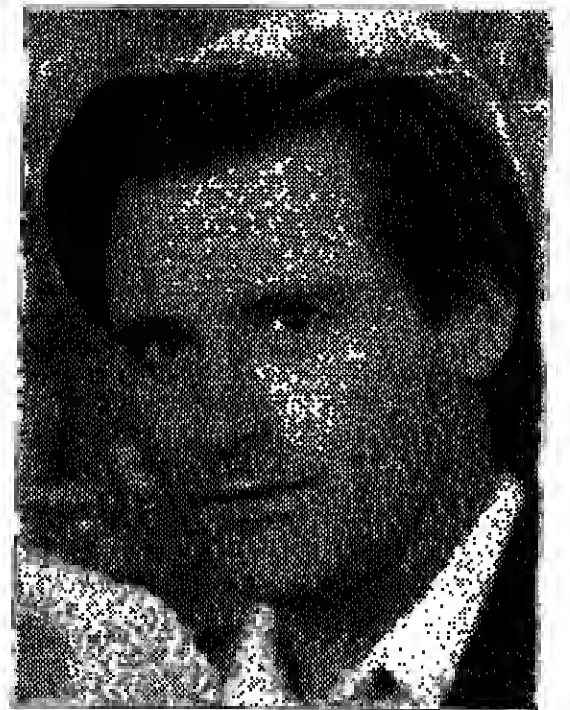
In "The End of Violence," a brusque, hard-driving Hollywood producer, Michael Max (Bill Pullman), has a film currently shooting and a beautiful wife (Andie MacDowell) he seriously neglects. His loyal, conscientious secretary (Rosindell Chao) tells him that he has received a hefty time via e-mail on a new surveillance system, but he has no time to look at it. It apparently has been sent to him by a NASA-trained FBI surveillance expert, Ray Bering (Gabriel Byrne) he met briefly at an electronics convention.

Meanwhile, Ray is holed up in the Griffith Planetarium setting up this breakthrough surveillance system which allows for constant observation of L.A.'s city streets. It involves hidden cameras installed all over L.A. streets at what must be an astronomical cost. Ray's boss (Daniel Benzali) intends it to speed up crime response 200 percent.

He remarks, "It could mean the end of violence as we know it." Because Ray is beginning to have misgivings about the surveillance system in its big-brother-is-watching-you implications, he reached out, it would seem, to Mike in the belief that someone outside the FBI should know about it. Mike is subsequently amused that, as a ruthless Hollywood type, he would be entrusted with such vital information. The crux of Wenders and writer Nicholas Klein's plot, which requires at times leaps of faith, is that there is a mind-hogging aspect of the surveillance system that Ray does not know about—that is, until, by the long arm of



Andie MacDowell



Bill Pullman

coincidence, the system saves the life of Mike, who is in danger of losing it at the hands of a pair of buffoonish crooks (Fruitt Taylor-Vince, John Diehl) intent on stealing his Mercedes. Remembering his secretary's memo on the e-mailed surveillance material, Mike winds up laying low and is given shelter and work by some Latino gardeners (Enrique Castillo, Sal Lopez and Ulises Cuadra) led by a kindly patriarch (Henry Silva). That all this just sets the film in motion, suggests how intricate "The End of Violence" is.

While in hiding, Pullman has a chance to think about his life and character, to realize what an SOB he has become and to discover that change within individuals is the only way society can be transformed, as idealistic as that seems. Wenders and Klein come up with amusing commentary on the workings of Hollywood, and there is a consideration of how so many people's lives are affected by violence in all its forms, including movies.

As "The End of Violence" unfolds in all its implications and permutations, it involves us with an extraordinary number and range of individuals, all of them engagingly played, although MacDowell seems out of her element as a woman who envisions into the hard, self-absorbed type of individual her missing husband had become.

Among those making vivid impressions are

Traci Lind as a stuntwoman with acting ambitions. Loren Dean as a shrewd, ambitious young cop attracted to Lind. K. Todd Freeman as an opportunistic film composer, KCRW's Chris Dnurdas as Ray's assistant, Marisol Padilla Sanchez as a new planetarium cleaning woman, Frederic Forrest (who played the title role of "Hammett") as a veteran cop, Nicole Parker as a challenging poet and most especially director Sam Fuller as Ray's frail but feisty father. Singer Sam Phillips pops up briefly, and you can try to spot singer Meshell Ndegeocello (she recently simplified the spelling of her first name).

Although "The End of Violence" is probably too complicated for its own good, it is clearly the work of a major visionary artist in whom it always possible to recognize truths about the lives we live—a filmmaker who for once doesn't exploit violence as he protests it. It would be terrific to see it on a double bill with Robert Altman's "Short Cuts" or Michelangelo Antonioni's "Zabriskie Point."

(MPAA rating: R, for language. Los Angeles Times guidelines: The film is too intense and complicated for children.)

La Times-Washington Post News Service

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THE STAR'S TECHNOLOGY NOVEMBER

Edited by Zeid Nasser

Personalization services through web search engines: Get the news you want!

By Jabra Ghneim

Special to The Star
A FEW years ago the American thinker Francis Fukuyama declared that we have reached the "End of History," which means that the human society has reached and adopted an optimal, and final, model of politics and economics.

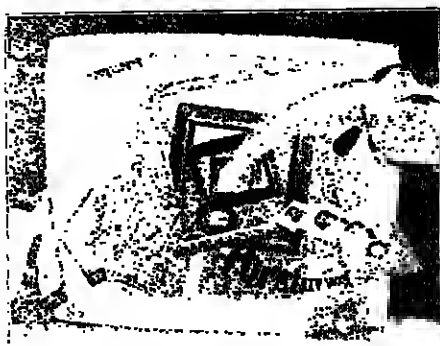
I always wondered how the "End of History" for computer technology would be like. In other words, what will the optimal computing model we would fully adopt be like.

Products based on some form or another of artificial intelligence will be everywhere in our future. These products will do for us more than the routine jobs we hate, they will save us from the little routine decisions we have to make sometimes, like which books or articles to read, which stereo to buy, the car we ride and its color, etc.

Those who roam the Web and are familiar with its search engines, can actually use a form of artificial intelligence programs. Recently, I experimented with personalization services on web search engines like YAHOO!, Excite, Alta Vista and others.

As their name indicates, these services save you the trouble of searching for news that interests you whenever you want it. Instead, you log on to a firm and fill up your name, e-mail address and some

personal information. Then, these search engines install a cookie on your system, which is a special line of code that it embeds into your system. Every time you go to the search engine page it opens up your personalized page with news and information that interest you. You can rate the



news you receive, so when you log on the next time the news and information you get are more relevant to you. You even get your horoscope in a language that matches the interests you specify.

Since my interests are mainly in business and computer technology, my horoscope the other day said, "you should be flexible and use faster ethernet cards and modems." Having a personalized web page is similar to having a newspaper tailored to your interests and needs every morning—even the ads are of interest to the reader.

So, the pages you get are never boring. There is always something that interests you there. Personalization services through web search engines are an easy solution to people who do not want to use PUSH technologies yet.

The amount of time saved is amazing and your internet connection time is considerably less as you don't have to wander from site to site to get information. I highly recommend that you try these services, which are based on some form of artificial intelligence or another. Some computer programs sort of "decide for you" what it is that you like, using techniques that simulate the thinking of the human brain.

These programs do not think like regular computer programs, in terms of zero and one only, they also consider alternatives to the absolute solutions. In other words these programs can simulate your personal thinking after you feed them with your personal information. They will be a major cornerstone in tomorrow's virtual economy, and a valuable tool for commerce through the Net.

Add to that the advances mankind have made in speech recognition and you will end up with a true thinking machine. When all of these technologies are final and optimal, then I believe we can say we have reached the ultimate

point of development, or the "End of History".

For those interested in knowing more about how these technologies work I strongly advise you to visit www.firefly.com, www.wisefire.com, and www.liveminds.com.

For us users in the Arab world, there is already a lot of experience in artificial intelligence technologies that we can direct towards making Arabic programs to filter Arabic content on the net. The nature of the language has forced companies to do a great amount of research on technologies that use artificial intelligence for everything from OCR recognizing printed and handwritten characters to speech recognition and machine translation.

The producers of these programs are strategically positioned to enter the world of Internet filtering technology where real opportunity awaits. All we need are entrepreneurs who will catch the vision.

Email: ghneimj@go.com.jo

Computer & IT Companies

Welcome to The Star's Workstation, the absolute source on what's hot and what's not in Jordan's IT market. Fax us on 648236 or email us at StarNet@com.jo with your news and views.

Smart Systems offers Trendware, Gateway 2000, Philips and more: Delivering comprehensive solutions to the Jordanian market

FROM THE beginning of this year, Smart Systems has been expanding the product range it offers to the Jordanian market, aiming to deliver comprehensive solutions.

Smart Systems was established in 1990 and includes staff with long-term experience in computer hardware and software, since 1979. Smart Systems provides satisfaction to its clients. Earlier this year, Smart Systems was appointed as the Middle East distributor for Trendware, which produces networking products including Ethernet cards, Ethernet hubs, switching hubs and more. As the regional dealer, Smart Systems is currently in the process of appointing local market

distributors in the countries of the Middle East. Smart Systems is an authorized distributor for uninterrupted power supply (UPS) products from American Power Conversion (APC). This is the leading UPS brand worldwide and provides full protection to computer equipment and a continuous flow of power to mission-critical computer installations.

Also, Smart Systems is aggressively pushing its Gateway 2000 and Philips PCs. Gateway 2000 is an American PC brand well known for its quality. Customers in Jordan can rest assured that they will receive quality service with their Gateway 2000 systems. Smart Systems will offer the whole range including desktops and note-



Trendware products

books. As for Philips, in addition to the competitively priced multimedia PCs, Smart Systems offers a range of Philips monitors and peripherals. Last, but not least, Smart Systems is also an official Microsoft center in Jordan, which makes the company capable of answering all the software needs of its clients.



Philips Brilliance

News update

Epson to support Arabic in dot-matrix printers

● Epson has announced an agreement with SEDCO, a Jordanian specialist company in localization, by which Epson's dot-matrix printers will receive full Arabic support. This is to be achieved by Arabization cards added to the printer units which should support a large number of Arabic fonts, allowing the printer to recognize these fonts.

SEDCO has Arabized all Epson printers from the LQ200 all the way up to the new LQ2000.

Currently, the Arabized printers are being distributed through a network of 30 dealers across the Arab region.

● Panasonic announces 24X CD-ROM drives

● Panasonic has announced new, fast CD-ROM drives that

are arguably the fastest ever made.

These drives boast 24 times the speed, upgrading the recently announced market standard of 20 times. Also, the seek time on these drives is as little as 8.5 milliseconds. This means that the transfer rate is around 4104 Kilobits per second. The Panasonic CD-ROM drives are compliant with most graphics and video standards.

Motorola Voice Surfer offers 56 Kbps

● Offering a blistering speed of 56Kilobits per second, Motorola's Voice Surfer is one of the hottest modems around. It delivers true 56Kbps, not just 53 Kbps and is certified for the Internet with exclusive H.T.F.I technology.

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French clubs facing test of strength in UEFA Cup

PARIS—With a record seven clubs in the first round of the UEFA Cup on Tuesday, 1998 soccer World Cup hosts France face a test of their real strength in a crucial season for the sport in the country.

Thanks to the Intercontinental Cup, a competition to which major European soccer powers such as Italy, Spain or England did not send any team, Auxerre, Bastia and Lyon have joined the four French clubs directly qualified for the UEFA Cup—Nantes, Bordeaux, Strasbourg and Metz.

French teams will be all the more eager to shine in the event as it is the only Euro-

pean cup competition no French side has yet won.

Bastia and Bordeaux, who reached the final in 1978 and 1996 respectively, will try their luck once more even though they will not be favourites against teams with a far better European record, Benfica and Aston Villa.

With Strasbourg meeting Glasgow Rangers and Auxerre also facing a difficult task against Deportivo La Coruna, the French contingent may well be reduced after second leg matches on 30 September.

The decision by UEFA to beef up the European Cup by allowing Germany, Italy,

England, Spain, France, the Netherlands and Portugal to enter two teams in their showcase competition has made the UEFA Cup a little less glamorous.

Some intriguing clashes will still take place on Tuesday in a competition often referred to as the most difficult of the three.

The tie between Liverpool and Celtic in Glasgow looks the most promising of the 32 games on the menu if only because of the prestigious past of both British teams.

The last European meeting between the pair was a tense struggle in the semifinal of the Cup Winners' Cup 31 years ago, where over the two legs 135,000 spectators saw Liverpool triumph 2-1.

The match between Sampdoria and



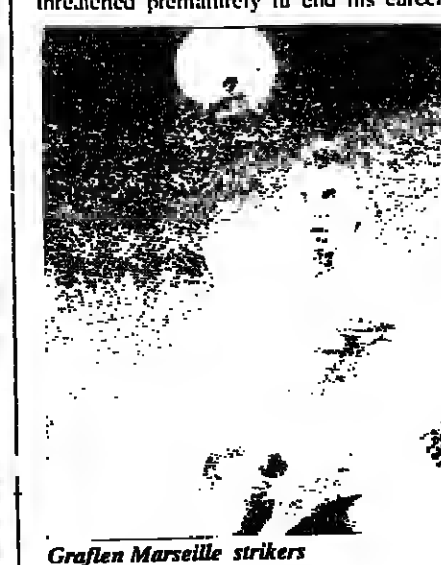
Athletic Bilbao is the other highlight game of the round.

Sampdoria's Argentine coach Cesar Luis Menotti hopes that his side's defensive work will improve at home. Sampdoria were held to a 3-3 away draw by Brescia on Saturday prompting Menotti to comment: "Bilbao are a canny side who use the professional foul a lot so we'd better use our heads."

Athletic prepared for the tie in the best possible way defeating Athletic Madrid 1-1 at the weekend. Despite missing Rafael Alkorta and Jose Ziganda through suspension, French coach Luis Fernandez can still name a strong side.

Last year's losing finalists Internazionale may field an exciting three-man attack of Brazilian Ronaldo, Nigerian Nwankwo Kanu and Frenchman Youri Djorkaeff against Swiss side Neuchatelamax.

Inter defeated Bologna 4-2 away on Sunday to go joint top of Serie A with Fiorentina. Kanu, back in soccer this season just one year after a hearing problem threatened prematurely to end his career,



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Maradona scores as Boca Juniors win

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina—Diego Maradona, his career hanging in the balance after failing a drug test, scored on a penalty to help Boca Juniors beat Newell's Old Boys 2-1 on Sunday.

The 36-year-old former Argentine captain passed a now mandatory doping test before the game and later toyed with the idea of retirement.

"It's an ace I have up my sleeve which could come out at any moment," Maradona said after the match. "I'm tired of so many lies and everything that is being said about me."

Maradona's career seemed over 10 days ago when the Argentine Football Association announced he had tested positive for "illegal substances" after Boca's first game of the season.

But a judge has since cleared Maradona of any criminal charges and ordered the AFA to allow Maradona to continue playing until the investigation is completed.

Maradona's lawyers claim his urine sample was tampered with or that he may have been given a spiked drink shortly before the Aug. 24 game against Argentinos Juniors in which he also scored a penalty.

He said Sunday he was tired of jokes: "Every time I go to the bathroom at home they ask me if I'm going to do a doping test. I've had enough," he said.

In 1996, Maradona admitted to being a cocaine addict and underwent rehabilitation. But he swears he did not drug himself before the Aug. 24 match and says he is the victim of a plot.

Maradona delighted the 50,000 fans at Boca stadium by scoring a first-half penalty to give the home team the lead. He then limped off injured midway through the second half.

Maradona's career peaked when he led Argentina to World Cup success in 1986. But it has since been marred by drug abuse.

He was banned for 15 months in 1991 for taking cocaine before a match with Italian club Napoli. That same year he was arrested in Buenos Aires for drug possession.

In 1994, he was thrown out of the World Cup in the United States after testing positive for a cocktail of performance-enhancing drugs, including ephedrine.

He also still faces charges for injuring four reporters outside his Buenos Aires home with an air rifle.

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